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Missiles race

Trump administration pouring billions into the quest for hypersonic weapons

By ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They fly at speeds of a mile a second or faster and maneuver in ways that make them extra difficult to detect and destroy in flight.

President Donald Trump calls them "super-duper" missiles though they're better known as hypersonic weapons. And they are at the heart of Trump administration worries about China and Russia.

For decades the United States has searched for ways to get ultra-fast flight right.

But it has done so in fits and starts. Now, with China and Russia arguably ahead in this chase, the Trump administration is pouring billions of dollars a year into hypersonic offense and defense.

The Pentagon makes no bones about their purpose.

"Our ultimate goal is, simply, we want to dominate future battlefields," Mark Lewis, the Pentagon's director of defense research and engineering for modernization, told reporters in March.

SEE MISSILES ON PAGE 4

An intercontinental ballistic missile lifts off from a truck-mounted launcher in Russia. Russia last December said its first hypersonic missile unit had become operational.

RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE/AP

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Memorial Day even more poignant as veterans are lost to coronavirus

By R.J. Rico
Associated Press

ATLANTA — One was a 94-year-old veteran of World War II who was the first of his 11 brothers to enlist in the military. One was a Vietnam veteran who lost his leg overseas and was always touched when people thanked

him for his service. Another was drafted into the military at 18 and was awarded a Purple Heart.

They are among the untold number of veterans who served and survived during times of war only to die in recent weeks from the coronavirus.

SEE VETERANS ON PAGE 3

■ USFK honors Korean War veterans' sacrifices
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■ Online: Get the latest on the virus outbreak
stripes.com/coronavirus

President Donald Trump places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday.

ALEX BRANDON/AP



BUSINESS/WEATHER

CEO buying struggling New Zealand firm for \$1

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — One of New Zealand's largest media organizations is being sold for a single dollar to its chief executive, the owners announced Monday.

The organization Stuff prints many of the nation's daily newspapers and runs a popular news website of the same name. It employs about 900 staff, including 400 journalists.

Owned by Australia's Nine En-

tertainment, Stuff faced financial challenges before the coronavirus pandemic struck and has since seen advertising revenues plunge.

In a statement to the Australian stock market, Nine said Stuff would be sold to CEO Sinead Boucher in a management buyout deal that will be completed by the end of the month.

"We have always said that we believe it is important for Stuff to have local ownership and it is our firm view that this is the

best outcome for competition and consumers in New Zealand," said Hugh Marks, the CEO of Nine.

Boucher said she's been "blown away" by the positive feedback she's been receiving about the purchase.

Boucher, 49, said she has no immediate plans for any staff reductions or newspaper closures, although added the ownership change isn't a silver bullet to cure the issues that Stuff and other media companies are facing.

EXCHANGE RATES

| | Military rate |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Euro (cents) (May 26) | \$1.06 |
| Dollar (May 26) | €0.8939 |
| British pound (May 26) | €1.25 |
| Japanese yen (May 26) | 105.00 |
| South Korean won (May 26) | 1,205.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3775 |
| British pound | \$1.2194 |
| China (Yuan) | 0.1990 |
| China (Yuan) | 1,713.90 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.8436 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 15.93 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | \$1,089.50 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 0.7546 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 322.16 |
| India (Rupee) | 3.50 |
| Japan (Yen) | 107.69 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3090 |
| Norway (Krone) | 10,049.50 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 4.13 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7568 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.4248 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,241.87 |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 0.15 |
| Discount rate | 0.25 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.05 |
| 3-month bill | 0.12 |
| 30-year bond | 1.37 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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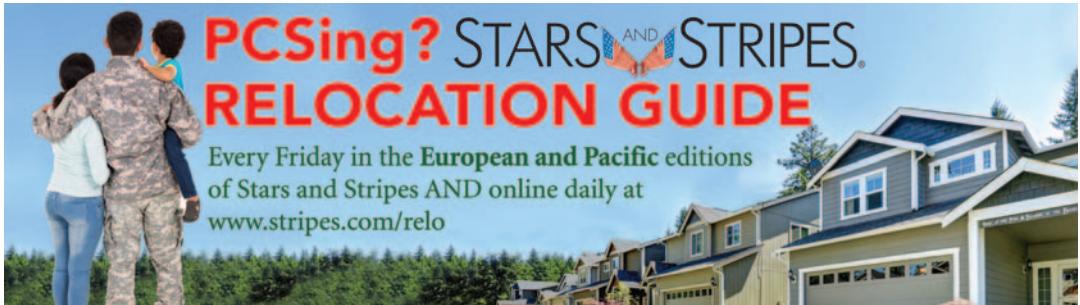
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RELOCATION GUIDE

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MILITARY

USFK honors Korean War veterans' sacrifices

Fallen troops remembered in socially-distant event

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The commander of U.S. Forces Korea called on his troops to "take pride in our service and our dedication to duty" during a Memorial Day service near command headquarters that was livestreamed on social media.

Gen. Robert Abrams, who also leads the United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command on the peninsula, also laid wreaths at the U.N. Command Memorial in honor of those killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The ceremony was attended by roughly 25 guests — including U.S. ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris and Veterans of Foreign Wars District 3 commander Donald Kelley — who practiced social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Abrams invoked the U.S.-South Korea bond during his address.

"Here in Korea we are no stranger to that shared sacrifice. Over 54,000 Americans have given their lives for the cause of freedom in support of the Republic of Korea," he said. "They faced difficult circumstances and demonstrated incredible bravery and determination seemingly against all odds."

Memorial Day began after the American Civil War as Decoration Day, Abrams said as he paid homage to those who perished on the Korean peninsula.

"Today we collectively remember and honor our fallen heroes who have given their all to protect the freedoms that we hold dear," he said. "We are reminded of what they fought and died for, the principles and beliefs that bind us as a nation."

Abrams has led units in combat operations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We will never forget our fallen friends and teammates, nor our amazing Gold Star families," he said. "These heroes are our sisters and brothers, daughters and sons, and mothers and fathers."

Harris and Kelley assisted Abrams and USFK Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Taglicic as they placed wreaths at the U.N. Command Memorial.

"We live free as a result of their sacrifice; let us earn that freedom every day," Abrams said. "Let us take pride in our service and our dedication to duty, continue to act in service for the good of our nation, our allies and partners, and our world, for we do so in memory of those who have come before us. We carry the torch now and we honor their sacrifice today."

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MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

An honor guard soldier salutes during a Memorial Day ceremony outside U.S. Forces Korea headquarters at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday.

Veterans: Pandemic curtails some Memorial Day events

FROM FRONT PAGE

This year's Memorial Day will pay tribute not only to those who died on the battlefield but more recent fallen soldiers. And in a reminder of the way coronavirus has transformed American lives and traditions, many of the usual Memorial Day gatherings have been either canceled or curtailed — mindful of the pandemic that has already killed more than 90,000 people in the U.S.

It's making the situation even more painful for the relatives of those veterans who have died from the virus.

Robert Hopp was one of at least 79 residents of a veterans home in Paramus, N.J., to die from COVID-19, making the state-run facility one of the nation's worst hot spots for the virus.

He served two and a half tours during the Vietnam War and received a Purple Heart after he was hit with enemy fire while in a helicopter. Everyone else on board the chopper died, but Hopp managed to climb into the pilot's seat and fly to safety.

After being hospitalized recently for diabetic complications, his health deteriorated quickly and he died in April. He was 70 years old.

His family was at a loss about how they would mark the occasion.

"We couldn't even have a funeral for him yet," said stepson J.J. Brania-Hopp. "There's not really anything we can do right now. All we'll probably do is talk about him, maybe go for a walk out in the sun."

The toll of the virus on military veterans has been particularly harsh. They are older, have underlying health problems, and many reside in facilities that have been breeding grounds for the disease.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 1,000 veterans have been killed by the coronavirus. That does not include hundreds more who have died

'We couldn't even have a funeral for him yet. There's not really anything we can do right now.'

J.J. Brania-Hopp
stepson of Robert Hopp, who died of COVID-19
in a Paramus, N.J., veterans home

in state-run veterans homes, including hard-hit facilities in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Louisiana.

"The last couple of weeks have been hard," said Neal Hebert, whose father died at a veterans home in Reserve, La. "I'm an only child and I'll routinely have the impulse of going 'Oh, I need to call Dad and tell him this thing.' And it hits me that I can't do that."

His father, Berlin Hebert Jr., lost a leg from a land mine during the Vietnam War. He rarely talked about the war but made his son promise to never join the Army. It was only in recent years that he became more proud of his service, after the widower moved to the Southeast Louisiana Veterans home.

It was there where he would attend Veterans Day services and he felt people acknowledged his time in the military, a gesture that moved him.

"It always made him cry," Neal Hebert said.

In March, after learning that a resident in the home was positive for COVID-19, Neal Hebert became concerned about his 74-year-old father's safety. He was assured by a nurse that his mobility-impaired father had not been exposed to the virus. But within days, Berlin Hebert was hospitalized with the telltale respiratory symptoms.

His condition quickly worsened and his

son had to say goodbye to him over the phone, his father too weak to say anything back.

Neal Hebert isn't planning any remembrance for his father on Memorial Day, but he eventually hopes to scatter the ashes of his father and mother outside their long-time home as loved ones look on.

Charles H.F. Davis III said Memorial Day has always had a special significance in his family due to his relatives' long history of serving. But this year, the pandemic has prevented the aging and geographically-scattered family from planning a specific observance to mark the death of his step-grandfather.

Ben Davis Jr. was the first of 11 brothers to enlist in the U.S. military when he joined the Navy in 1944 during World War II. Combined, the brothers would go on to serve 158 years in the armed forces. Davis Jr. served in the Navy, U.S. Army Reserve and Alabama National Guard. He later became a surgical assistant with the Tuskegee Veterans Hospital and was also a youth baseball coach.

Davis Jr. died in April at the age of 94 after contracting the virus at the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, Ala., his step-grandson said. At least 91 residents of the veterans home have tested positive for COVID-19, and 23 died, according to Bob Horton, spokesman for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

Davis III, an assistant professor at the University of Southern California, said his grandfather's death is especially gnawing because he was a black veteran and the virus had had an inordinate impact on minority communities.

"Elders hold a special significance, especially in black communities," said Davis III. "Not being able to pay them the proper reverence and homage has been really difficult."

Trump honors fallen troops at two events

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump silently honored the nation's war dead Monday in a wreath ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, first in a pair of public events also taking him to Baltimore, to the National Mall.

Presidents on Memorial Day typically honor fallen military members by laying a wreath and delivering a speech at the hallowed burial ground in Virginia. But because of the pandemic, which is expected to claim its 100,000th American this week, the ceremony looked different this year.

Attendees at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier arrived wearing masks and removed them for the ceremony in the well-spared crowd. Trump, maskless as always in public, gave no remarks. He approached a wreath already in place, touching it.

He spoke later at Baltimore's Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. It's where a poem, written after a huge American flag was hoisted to celebrate an important victory over the British during the War of 1812, became "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"Together we will vanquish the virus and America will rise from this crisis to new and even greater heights," Trump said during the ceremony. "No obstacle, no challenge and no threat is a match for the sheer determination of the American people."

MILITARY

Missiles: Hypersonic weapons meant to keep up with Russia and China

FROM FRONT PAGE

Critics have argued that hypersonic weapons would add little to America's ability to deter war. Some think that they could ignite a new, destabilizing arms race.

Two things make hypersonic weapons special: speed and maneuverability. Speed brings surprise, and maneuverability creates elusiveness. Together, those qualities could mean trouble for missile defenses.

By generally agreed definition, a hypersonic weapon is one that flies at speeds over Mach 5 or five times the speed of sound. Most U.S. missiles, such as those launched from aircraft to hit other aircraft or ground targets, travel between Mach 1 and Mach 5.

Trump occasionally mentions his interest in hypersonic weapons, sometimes without using the term. In February, he told governors visiting the White House: "We have the super-fast missiles — tremendous number of the super-fast. We call them 'super-fast,' where they're four, five, six and even seven times faster than an ordinary missile. We need that because, again, Russia has some."

And last Friday, Trump told reporters, "We have no choice, we have to do it, with the adversaries we have out there," mentioning China and Russia. He added, "I call it the super-duper missile." He said that he "heard" it travels 17 times faster than any other U.S. missile. "It just got the go-ahead,"



JOSHUA ARMSTRONG, U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY/AP

Cadet 2nd Class Eric Hembling measures the pressures, temperatures and flow field of various basic geometric and hypersonic research vehicles at Mach 6 in the United States Air Force Academy's Department of Aeronautics in Colorado Springs, Colo.

he added, although the Pentagon would not comment on that.

The Pentagon is pursuing two main types of hypersonic weapons. One, called a hypersonic glide vehicle, is launched from a rocket. It then glides to a target, maneuvering at high speed to evade interception. The other is sometimes referred to as a hypersonic cruise missile. Capable of being launched from a fighter jet or bomber, it would be powered by a supersonic combustion ramjet, or scramjet, enabling the mis-

sle to fly and maneuver at lower altitudes.

Unlike Russia, the U.S. has said that it is not developing hypersonic weapons for use with a nuclear warhead. As a result, a U.S. hypersonic weapon will need to be more accurate, posing additional technical challenges.

Top Pentagon officials have said that it's about Russia and, even more so, China.

"By almost any metric that I can construct, China is certainly moving out ahead of us," Lewis,

the Pentagon research and engineering official, said last week. "In large measure, that's because we did their homework for them."

China is pushing for hypersonic weapon breakthroughs. It has conducted a number of successful tests of the DF-17, a medium-range ballistic missile designed to launch hypersonic glide vehicles. According to a Congressional Research Service report in March, U.S. intelligence analysts assessed that the DF-17 missile

has a range of approximately 1,000 to 1,500 miles and could be deployed this year.

Russia last December said that its first hypersonic missile unit had become operational. It is the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, which Moscow has said can fly at Mach 27, or 27 times faster than the speed of sound, and could make sharp maneuvers to bypass missile defenses. It has been fitted to existing Soviet-built intercontinental ballistic missiles and in the future could be fitted to the more powerful Sarmat ICBM, which is still in development.

As with other strategic arms, like nuclear weapons and naval fleets, for example, hypersonic weapons are seen by the Trump administration as a must-have if peer competitors have them.

But critics see hypersonic weapons as overkill and potentially an extension of the arms race that led to an excessive nuclear buildup by the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

There also is worry about these technologies spreading beyond the U.S., Russia and China.

"Their proliferation beyond these three nations could result in lesser powers setting their strategic forces hair-trigger states of readiness and more credibly being able to threaten attacks on major powers," the Rand Corp., a federally funded research organization, said in a 2017 report.

DODEA students sound off on \$500M lawsuit over AP exams

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Some students at Defense Department schools in the Pacific said they are pleased that a class-action lawsuit has been filed against the College Board over its handling of recent Advanced Placement exams.

The suit — which seeks more than \$500 million in compensatory and punitive damages, according to multiple media reports — was filed May 20 in federal district court in Los Angeles on behalf of students who ran into technical glitches when submitting their answers.

"I have been extremely frustrated with College Board throughout these last few weeks," said Maria Fogell, the senior class president for W.C. Kinney High School at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. She took the AP statistics exam Saturday and reported problems uploading the results.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, College Board administered the tests online for the first time between May 12 and May 23. The exams were also shortened from three hours to 45 minutes.

Citing security reasons, the board said that the tests had to be administered at the same time worldwide, forcing students at DODEA-Pacific to take them between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. DODEA-



CHRISTINE KALINA ROWAN

Connor Rowan, a junior at Yokota High School at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, takes an Advanced Placement exam in the early hours of Saturday, May 16.

Europe students tested between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Cameron Murray, a senior at Kubasaki High School on Okinawa who's enrolled in seven AP courses, said that one of the many exams she took failed to submit. She must retake it June 1, College

Board's designated makeup day.

"I hope this will seriously change the way the American education system emphasizes standardized testing above all else," she said.

Connor Rowan, a junior at Yokota

Air Base in western Tokyo, said that he took the AP U.S. history exam May 16 and couldn't finish on time. Rowan called College Board's testing interface sluggish and said that it took 20 minutes to open and review exam resources, leaving him only about 30 minutes

utes to complete and submit the test.

The fact that College Board is being sued "confirms that I'm not the only one who felt the entire testing experience was frustrating," he said.

Gio Cano, a junior at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's Matthew C. Perry High School in southwestern Japan, said that he had trouble finding his entry number and signing in for an AP history exam, but was able to finish on time.

"Not everybody has ... the best equipment," he said. "They should have known there was a chance there would be technical problems."

DODEA, which pays \$94 per exam per student, would not comment on the lawsuit because the tests are not administered by the agency, spokesman Will Griffin said Friday. There were 5,128 DODEA students worldwide registered to take AP tests this month.

College Board's chief risk officer and general counsel Peter Schwartz called the lawsuit "wrong factually and baseless legally," in a statement issued last week. "The College Board will vigorously and confidently defend against it and expect to prevail," he said.

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MILITARY

Navy uses laser to shoot down drone in midflight

Stars and Stripes

The USS Portland successfully disabled an unmanned aerial vehicle in midflight during the test of a new "high-energy laser weapon system" on May 16, according to U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Video footage released by the Navy on Friday shows the amphibious transport dock ship firing a Laser Weapon System Demonstrator, or LWS-D, somewhere in the Pacific. A separate clip shows the drone being shot down.

The test marks the "first system-level implementation of a

high-energy class solid-state laser," the statement said.

The technology allows the Portland to redefine war at sea for the Navy, said the ship's commander, Capt. Karrey Sanders.

"By conducting advanced at sea tests against [drones] and small crafts, we will gain valuable information on the capabilities of the [LWS-D] against potential threats," Sanders said.

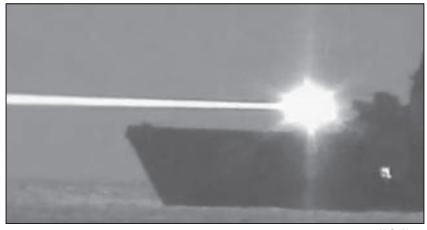
The test of the Northrop Grumman-developed weapon comes three months after a Chinese destroyer shot a weapons-grade laser at a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon

patrol aircraft in a recent move that U.S. Pacific Fleet dubbed "unsafe and unprofessional."

The incident happened on Feb. 17 in the Philippine Sea about 380 miles west of Guam while the Poseidon crew was "operating in international airspace in accordance with international rules and regulations," a Navy statement said.

A sensor on the Poseidon detected the laser, which was invisible to the naked eye, according to the statement.

"Weapons-grade lasers could potentially cause serious harm



U.S. Navy

The USS Portland uses a high-energy laser weapon system known as an LWS-D to shoot down an unmanned aerial vehicle somewhere in the Pacific on May 16.

to aircrane and mariners, as well as ship and aircraft systems," the statement said. On March 19, a state-run newspaper in China said Beijing should consider using non-lethal lasers on U.S. warships to discourage their transits through the South China Sea.

Chinese military expert Song Zhongping told Global Times that the use of electromagnetic weapons, such as low-energy laser devices, could "send a strong warning" by temporarily paralyzing weapon and control systems on U.S. ships — all done "without visible conflict."

Air Force lifts height restriction policy required for pilots

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has ditched its height requirements for officers who desire to fly its aircraft, an effort aimed in part at encouraging more women to attempt pilot training, the service announced Friday.

The Air Force on May 13 rescinded its 2015 policy that restricted pilot training to officers between 5 feet, 4 inches and 6 feet, 5 inches tall unless they were granted a waiver to attend flight school, service officials said in a news release. With steady pilot shortages in recent years, the Air Force had encouraged individuals outside that height range to apply for a waiver and routinely granted them, officials said.

Nonetheless, the height waiver

process itself likely stopped many people from even considering pilot training, said Lt. Col. Jessica Ruttener, an Air Force mobility planner who led the effort to change height standards. She said some 44% of female Americans between the ages of 20 and 29 would have had to receive a waiver to attend flight school under the old policy.

"Studies have shown that women's perceptions about being fully qualified for a job makes them less likely to apply, even though that is a waiver option," Ruttener said in the news release. "Modifying the height standard allows the Air Force to accommodate a larger and more diverse applicant pool within existing aircraft constraints."

Officials said Friday that it would be impossible to determine precisely how many women

were discouraged from flight training because of the waiver requirement.

The new height policy will include an "anthropometric screening process," which looks at the size of muscle, bone, and fat tissue to measure body composition for all candidates to determine whether they can safely pilot certain aircraft.

Gwendolyn DeFilippi, the Air Force's assistant deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said the service is looking at various ways to eliminate barriers women and other minorities face in the Air Force.

"This is a huge win, especially for women and minorities of smaller stature who previously may have assumed they weren't qualified to join our team," she said.

Before the Air Force imple-

mented the height waiver process in 2015, it banned individuals shorter than 5 feet, 4 inches and taller than 6 feet, 5 inches from being pilots. The initial waiver process was an attempt aimed at increasing diversity within pilot ranks.

Previous height restrictions were largely aimed at ensuring safety within cockpits generally designed around the average size of a man, officials said. However, in recent years, individuals well below and above the former standard heights have proven capable of flying, according to the Air Force.

The average 20-year-old American man stands about 5 feet, 9 inches tall, while the average 20-year-old American female stands about 5 feet, 4 inches tall, according to a Department of Health and Human Services assessment

of data between 2007 and 2010.

The initiative to scrap the height requirements came out of the Air Force's Women's Initiative Team, for which Ruttener is a leader. The team is comprised of volunteers who advocate for women's propensity to serve and work to advance equal opportunity regardless of gender, according to the Air Force.

Top Air Force officials have said they need about 21,000 pilots in the service at all times, and they have remained about 2,000 short of that goal for several years. Officials, however, have said amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced commercial airlines to freeze pilot hiring, the service has seen a significant uptick in retention of experienced pilots.

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2 US bombers train with Swedish, Norwegian fighters over Scandinavia

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

U.S. B-1B Lancers trained with Swedish Gripen fighter jets over Sweden last Tuesday, a first in the bomber's 35-year history, the Air Force said.

A pair of the bombers flew from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., to integrate with the Swedish Armed Forces jets and conduct close-air support training with Swedish Joint Terminal Attack Controller ground teams at Visdals Test Range, the Air Force said in a news release Thursday.

The bombers' 23-hour nonstop mission was made possible with refueling planes provided by Great Britain and the Netherlands, the news release said.

"This was a great opportunity to operate in new territory and clearly demonstrates the flexibility, credibility, and the lethality of our nation's bomber force," Col. David Doss, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, said in the news release. "Operations like this enhance our readiness and ensure we are ready to respond to any contingency or challenge across the globe."



A pair of U.S.-based B-1B bombers fly beside four Swedish Armed Forces Gripen fighter jets May 19.

The Gripen, built by Saab, is a multirole fighter in use by several NATO countries. Among its capabilities, it carries beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles. The B-1s were escorted by Royal Air Force fighter jets while over the United Kingdom.

The bombers also integrated with Norwegian F-35 fighter jets to tactical sorties and conduct a low-altitude over Orland Air Station, which is home to the Royal Norwegian Air Force's F-35 fleet that only recently became operational, the news release said.

Bomber missions such as this "showcase

our ability to respond globally from anywhere," Gen. Jeff Harrigan, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, said in the news release.

The Air Force is undergoing a shift in how it deploys bombers, adopting a model reflecting the U.S. National Defense Strategy's objectives of strategic predictability and operational unpredictability.

The Air Force is also refocusing B-1 training away from the close-air support that has been commonplace in the Middle East and toward precision strikes with, for example, long-range anti-ship missiles, Maj. Gen. Jim Dawkins Jr., commander of the Eighth Air Force and the Joint-Global Strike Operations Center at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., told military.com Tuesday.

The B-1 shift was particularly applicable in the vast space of the Pacific Ocean and the emerging "greater-power" competition between America and China, Dawkins said.

"Not only are we resetting the airplane's mission-capability rates and the training done for the aircraft, we're also resetting how we employ the airplane to get more to-

ward great power competition to align with the National Defense Strategy," he said.

The value of the mission to Scandinavia on Tuesday was its rare opportunity for B-1 airmen to integrate with NATO partners they might work with in future conflicts, the news release said.

"While preparing for these missions, our airmen plan a tactical scenario with mission leads from all participants and learn the capabilities and limitations of unfamiliar air assets," Lt. Col. Thomas Taylor, commander of the 34th Bomb Squadron, said in the news release.

"In future wars, the enemy may not afford us the luxury of staging from a base only a few hours from the target area," Taylor said. "These sorties train our airmen to be just as lethal on a 24-hour combat mission as they are on a three-hour training mission."

The 34th Bomb Squadron flew the first B-1 overseas strike in Libya for Operation Odyssey Dawn on March 27, 2011, the news release said.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Lawmakers push to extend benefits for National Guard

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Lawmakers have escalated their efforts to extend federal deployments for National Guard members combating the coronavirus by sending letters to President Donald Trump and filing legislation they say would help states still grappling with the virus and provide better benefits for troops.

Rep. Annie Kuster, D-N.H., introduced legislation Friday that would extend federal status to National Guard troops through the end of the public health emergency, according to a news release from her office. It is the companion bill to the National Guard COVID-19 Response Stability Act filed in the Senate on Wednesday by Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.

As of Friday, about 46,000 National Guard troops were deployed with about 39,900 working under a federal status known as Title 32, which keeps them under the control of the state's governor but pays for them with federal funds. Missions under this status must be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The status also gives troops federal benefits such as Tricare health insurance, death gratuity and a housing allowance. For those serving in a federal status for at least 90 days in a fiscal year, service members also are eligible to receive their retirement compensation three months sooner and receive greater support through the post 9/11 GI Bill. But the planned June 24 end for the deployments would leave many troops with only 89 days of federal service against COVID-19.

"Across the nation, the National Guard is working tirelessly to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic," Kuster said. "The Trump administration's decision to cut these COVID-19 deployments just short of the 90-day benchmark to receive benefits under the GI Bill is misguided and downright unpatriotic."

The debate also brings "an early end to the critical support that the National Guard is providing to communities in every state across the nation," she said.

That work includes manning testing sites, and drive-thru testing sites, going into nursing homes to clean and test personnel and residents, and working in food banks to get meals out to families in some of the most economically hard-hit areas of the country.

In New York, where nearly 3,000 Guard members are approved for federal status through June 24, operations are under

DID YOU KNOW?

As of Friday, about 46,000 National Guard troops were deployed with about 39,900 working under a federal status known as Title 32, which keeps them under the control of the state's governor but pays for them with federal funds.

SOURCE: Stars and Stripes

constant re-evaluation based on the changing needs of communities, said Col. Richard Goldenberg, spokesman for the New York National Guard.

In Maryland, leadership will determine whether missions carried out by about 1,000 Guard members will need to end on June 24 or continue under state and local agencies, said Maj. Kurt Rauschenberg, spokesman for the Maryland National Guard.

A bipartisan group of 125 senators and representatives sent a letter Friday to Trump, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and FEMA Administrator Peter Gaynor asking for them to address four areas of concern among the National Guard: federal status, leave, health care and GI Bill and retirement benefits.

"Our national success in flattening the curve will not be possible without the contributions of the National Guard. We believe it is critical to ensure that all National Guard personnel are taken care of during this crisis and after, recognizing that the threat of COVID-19 will not immediately go away and the National Guard is likely to be called on again in the future," wrote the group of 95 Democrats, 29 Republicans and one Independent.

When it comes to Guard health care, the group asked the administration to provide Transition Assistance Management Program benefits for 180 days after coming off orders. This would ensure the Tricare health coverage earned for troops and their families while federal orders would continue once service members return home.

Esper hinted Friday an extension could be in the works when questioned about the National Guard on NBC's *Today* show.

"If they have a valid mission asignment verified by FEMA, then my view is we should extend those tours of duty," he said. "I'm not worried about the number of days. I'm worried about making sure we win the fight against the coronavirus and fully support the young men and women who are serving on the streets of America in the National Guard."

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PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Above: Dungeons & Dragons, the popular fantasy role-playing game, has amped up its online presence during the coronavirus pandemic. Below: The game uses a 20-sided die.

Troops among D&D players turning to virtual realms amid pandemic

BY THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — In days of yore, when a dungeon master commanded his party to roll for initiative, the clatter of icosahedrons — the 20-sided die — sounded across the gaming table.

But in the plague times, the coronavirus pandemic, Dungeons & Dragons, the popular fantasy role-playing game better known as D&D, has changed. It's gone virtual, with many more locked-down players, even in the military, turning to online platforms to live their fantasies.

"I look forward to my online game with my friends," said Tech Sgt. Thomas Smith, operations manager for American Forces Network Tokyo.

Smith lives under tight restrictions on movements and group gatherings imposed by Yokota's commander.

"I haven't had any real social interactions outside of work; it lets me see and spend time with my friends and it's a good stress release," he said during a phone interview Monday. D&D "helps me maintain my sanity with all of the nonsense going on."

Players still gather with their dice, statistics tables and character figures, but now they're just as likely to face one another on a virtual meeting platform like Discord than they are in real life.

Dungeons & Dragons, which first appeared in 1974, now counts about 13.7 million players worldwide, according to dungeontreasury.com, an informational website designed for D&D players.

Unlike video games, D&D relies not on amped-up graphics but on players' imaginations. Traditionally played in person such as a board or card game, D&D also developed an online presence before social distancing and per-



sonal hygiene became pandemic buzzwords.

That presence has exploded, said Adam Bradford, vice president of tabletop gaming at DnD Beyond, a Huntsville, Ala., firm that creates the game's official "digital toolkit."

Before the coronavirus emerged, the company opened a few thousand new accounts daily, Bradford said during a phone interview May 16. Now it opens three times that number. The company has more than 4 million users and is expected to reach 6 million by the end of the year, he said.

Growth is not without its own problems. Internet bandwidth is straining to keep up with the increased activity across all kinds of platforms, whether work-at-home meeting sites like Zoom or a D&D virtual tabletop like Roll20.

Bradford said one challenge is keeping new customers engaged in the virtual realms in the same way they would be in person. The goal at DnD Beyond is to enhance player interaction with digital content, he said.

"We've found that when people get together, it's different from playing online," he said. "We are trying to keep people more engaged when online."

Christopher Gilmore, a veteran and dungeon master, said via a Facebook message May 4 that his group moved to the popular

chat application called Discord for its virtual sessions during the pandemic.

"The internet took a huge hit when everybody was at home online and none of the carriers anticipated the increased need for bandwidth," he said.

The pandemic created a "massive influx of daily voice calls" over Discord, company spokeswoman Liz McBain said in an email May 13.

"In Spain and France voice calls have more than doubled; in Italy, they've more than tripled, and in the U.S., we've seen more than 50% growth in voice users," she wrote.

Spurred by D&D's popularity on Discord, DnD Beyond created Avrae, a bot, or software that automatically completes certain tasks. Avrae works on Discord to roll dice, look up reference material or ping people for their turns, Bradford said. The bot proved very popular.

For active-duty troops such as Smith, who uses Roll20, playing online keeps the game alive.

"There are a lot of interesting aspects moving to a virtual tabletop," he said. "There are more tools available with easier access like maps and digital character sheets that help track what's going on in the game. But the biggest pro to playing online is the fact I don't have to wear pants anymore."

Through D&D, Smith connects with old colleagues, veterans and civilians. In his five years of D&D, Smith has played the game with 20 other people, only two of whom were not affiliated with the military.

"My favorite part is the fantasy aspect," he said. "It's fun to see where the group takes the story."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Tourist attraction in Japan falls silent

Due to pandemic restrictions, a usually busy city finds itself bare

Stars and Stripes

KAMAKURA, Japan — This small coastal city about an hour south of Tokyo is among Japan's most popular tourist destinations.

Kamakura is in Kanagawa prefecture, one of the few areas in the country that remained under a state of emergency until Monday because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The prefecture counts several U.S. military installations as its neighbors, including Yokosuka Naval Base, Naval Air Facility Atsugi and Camp Zama.

Home to The Great Buddha of Kamakura, a massive bronze statue completed in 1252, Kamakura was once the nation's de facto capital and boasts an abundance of Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/
Stars and Stripes

Top: People walk toward Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, a Shinto shrine, in Kamakura, Japan on Thursday.

Clockwise from above: Visitors walk the grounds of Hase-dera, a Buddhist temple. People stroll along Komachi-dori, a popular shopping street. A sign outside Kotoku-in explains that the Buddhist temple is closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. People check out flowers at a shop on Komachi-dori.



VIRUS OUTBREAK

States find confusion in virus testing data

BY MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Elected officials, businesses and others are depending on coronavirus testing and infection-rate data as states reopen so that they will know if a second wave of contagion is coming — and whether another round of stay-at-home orders or closings might be needed.

But states are reporting those figures in different ways, and that can lead to frustration and confusion about what the numbers mean. In some places, there have been data gaps that leave local leaders wondering whether they should loosen or tighten restrictions. In others, officials are accused of spinning the numbers to make their states look better and justify reopening.

In a continuing theme for the outbreak in the United States, a lack of federal leadership persists. Even the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been lumping together tests that measure different things.

Such errors render the CDC numbers about how many Americans are considered "uninterpretable," creating a misleading picture for people trying to make decisions based on the data, said Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute,



Jerry A Mann, center, is held by his grandmother, Sylvia Rubio, as he is tested for COVID-19, May 14, by the San Antonio Fire Department at a free walk-up test site in San Antonio.

experts say. That allows for tracking of how many people have confirmed active infections, the percentage of people testing positive and how those numbers change over time — all crucial for guiding public policy.

Mixing the results makes it difficult to understand how the virus is spreading. It can give the false impression that the rate of positive test results is declining.

The CDC told The Associated Press on Friday that the problem started several weeks ago when the agency began collecting data from states using an electronic reporting system that had been developed for other diseases. At the time, nearly all lab results being reported were from live viral testing. But in the ensuing weeks, antibody tests expanded and CDC officials realized they had a growing number of those mixing in with the viral results, the CDC's Dr. Daniel Pollock said.

Pollock said officials are working to separate the data, but it is a labor-intensive process that could take another week or two. He acknowledged the agency could have moved to fix the problem sooner.

It's not clear to what extent the practice is clouding the national picture.



RICHARD VOEGEL/AP

Wearing protective masks ground crew at the Los Angeles International airport unload supplies of medical personal protective equipment from a China Southern Cargo plane, April 10.

or the price of each item, which could show whether the state got a good deal or was ripped off.

Those details are important because many states set aside purchasing safeguards amid a scramble for supplies among health care providers, states, the U.S. government and other countries. Instead of seeking competitive bids and vetting them for months, states have closed emergency deals in days with businesses claiming to have access to supplies. In some cases, states have prepaid to ensure orders aren't diverted elsewhere.

Some states say technological barriers prevent them from posting more information. Others provided no explanation for why they're doing so.

Transparency advocates say they're troubled by the difficulty in getting details about govern-

ment spending, especially during a crisis that's shaken the economy and sickened about 1.6 million in the U.S.

After an AP request in late April and early May, 44 states provided figures showing they had ordered or spent more than \$6 billion collectively on protective equipment and ventilators. The actual costs likely are higher, because some numbers were several weeks old and some reported only what they had spent so far, not what was in orders still to be delivered.

Several states have made changes already. Missouri canceled orders worth \$34 million for over 9 million masks made in China after tests showed they didn't fit properly. A Chinese company refunded California \$247 million after missing a deadline for the U.S. to certify its N95 masks were safe and effective.

with antibody tests, which check for proteins that develop a week or more after infection and show whether a person has been exposed at some point in the past.

Viral test results should be reported separately, public health

Trump threatens RNC move if NC governor denies full occupancy

BY JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

President Donald Trump threatened Monday to pull the Republican National Convention out of North Carolina if the state's Democratic governor doesn't immediately sign off on allowing a full-capacity gathering in August despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump's tweets about the RNC, planned for Charlotte, come just two days after North Carolina recorded its largest daily increase in positive cases yet.

On Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper moved the state into a second phase of gradual reopening by loosening restrictions on hair salons, barbers and restaurants. But he said the state must continue to closely watch virus trends and has ordered indoor entertainment venues, gyms and bars to remain closed for several more weeks.

"Unfortunately, Democrat Governor, @RoyCooperNC is still in Shutdown mood & unable to guarantee that by August we will be allowed... full attendance in the Arena," Trump tweeted Monday.

He added that Republicans "must be immediately given an answer by the Governor as to whether or not the space will

be allowed to be fully occupied. If not, we will be reluctantly forced...to find, with all of the jobs and economic development it brings, another Republican National Convention site."

Cooper's office responded with a brief statement that state officials are working with the GOP on convention decisions.

"State health officials are working with the RNC and will review its plans as they make decisions about how to hold the convention in Charlotte," Cooper spokeswoman Dory MacMillan said in an email. "North Carolina is relying on data and science to protect our state's public health and safety."

In an interview Monday on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends," Vice President Mike Pence noted convention planning takes months and suggested that a state that's loosened more restrictions could host. He praised reopening strides made by Texas, Florida and Georgia — all states with Republican governors.

"What you hear the president saying today is just a very reasonable request of the governor of North Carolina. We all want to be in Charlotte. We love North Carolina," Pence said.

States give few details on spending for supplies

BY DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — States are spending billions of dollars stocking up on medical supplies such as masks and breathing machines during the coronavirus pandemic. But more than two months into the buying binge, many aren't sharing details about how much they're spending, what they're getting for their money or which companies they're paying.

An Associated Press survey of all 50 states found a hodgepodge of public information from the purchase of masks, gloves, gowns and other hard-to-get equipment for medical and emergency workers.

Illinois has one of the most detailed tracking websites, showing the date, vendor, purpose, quantity and price of each purchase. In most states, it's not that easy. Some provided similar information only after the AP pointed to laws requiring the release of government documents.

The public can see only a piece of the procurement puzzle in many states — maybe an estimate of the total spent on supplies, but not the names of the providers

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Japan lifts state of emergency in remaining areas

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and four other remaining areas on Monday, ending the restrictions nationwide as businesses begin to reopen.

Experts on a government-commissioned panel approved the lifting of the emergency in Tokyo, neighboring Kanagawa, Chiba and Saitama prefectures, and in Hokkaido to the north, which had more cases and remained under the emergency declaration after it was removed in most of Japan earlier this month.

Abe said the lifting of the emergency does not mean the end of the outbreak. He said the goal is to balance preventive measure and the economy until vaccines and effective drugs become available.

Japan, with about 16,600 confirmed cases and about 850 deaths, has so far avoided a large outbreak like those experienced in the U.S. and Europe despite its softer restrictions.

But the world's third-largest economy is fallen into a recession, and public discontent over Abe's handling of the coronavirus

has sent his support ratings tumbling.

Abe declared the state of emergency on April 7 in several parts of Japan including Tokyo, expanded it to the entire nation later in the month, and then extended it until the end of May.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said recent data suggest that infections have slowed enough and pressure on the medical system has fallen enough to allow a gradual resumption of social and economic activity. He said Tokyo, Kanagawa and Hokkaido, where the number of infections is still fluctuating, need to be watched closely.

Individual prefectures are allowed to impose their own measures. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said last week that the capital will reopen in three phases starting with schools, libraries, museums, and longer service hours for restaurants. She said theaters, sports facilities and other commercial establishments will be next, with nightclubs, karaoke and live music houses in the final phase.

At the White House, officials slapped a travel ban on Latin America's most populous nation, saying it would deny admission



A screen shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaking at a press conference Monday, in Tokyo.

to foreigners who have recently been in Brazil. The ban, which takes effect Thursday, does not apply to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. With over 363,000 reported infections, Brazil is second only to the U.S. despite limited testing.

Greece's low COVID-19 infection rate allowed the government to restart the summer holiday season three weeks earlier than previously planned. In addition to resuming ferries with new passenger limits, it allowed cafes and restaurants to reopen under new social-distancing rules. All this, of course, was for Greek holidaymakers as foreign tourists are not expected until after June 15.

Islands such as Santorini, Mykonos, Corfu and Samos are major draws for tourists but have been mostly off-limits since late March when the country's lockdown took effect.

Hard-hit Spain reached a milestone Monday as half the population — including those in the two biggest cities, Madrid and Barcelona — were finally allowed to gather, albeit in limited numbers. Outdoor seating at bars and restaurants also reopened.

Madrid coffee bar owner Roberto Fernandez said the mood was bittersweet.

"We are also a little sad today, as we have lost two of our more elderly regular customers," Fernandez said. "They used to come every day, but now they have left

us."

Relaxations went a step further in the rest of Spain, where people can now visit beaches and nursing homes and hold weddings. Spain recorded 28,700 virus deaths.

But as lockdown restrictions were rolled back across Europe, fresh outbreaks were reported in a Czech coal mine and a Dutch slaughterhouse.

In Russia, infections topped 350,000 — the third-highest total in the world — as health officials reported 9,000 new cases and 92 new deaths, bringing the overall death toll to 3,633. Russia denies allegations that its death rate is suspiciously low, insisting that's due to its effective containment measures.

White House goal on testing nursing homes has been unmet

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Nearly two weeks ago the White House urged governors to ensure that every nursing home resident and staff member be tested for the coronavirus within 14 days.

It's not going to happen.

A review by The Associated Press found that at least half of the states are not going to meet the White House's deadline and some aren't even bothering to try. Only a handful of states, including West Virginia and Rhode Island, said they've already tested every nursing home resident.

Many states said the logistics, costs and manpower needs are too great to test all residents and staff in a two-week window. Some say they need another week or so, while others say they need much more time. California, the most populous state, said it is still working to release a plan that would ensure testing capacity for all residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities statewide.

And still other states are questioning whether testing every nursing home resident and staff, regardless of any other factors, is



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, speaks with reporters Friday in the James Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington.

a good use of time and money.

"At this time it would be fairly useless to do that," said Nebraska Chief Medical Officer Dr. Gary Anthone, adding that the state would have to repeat the tests almost daily to get more than a snapshot in time, and the state

doesn't have the capacity when there are others who need to be tested.

Anthone said the state was going to stick with the CDC's guidelines, which call for testing individually when nursing home residents show symptoms

or collectively if there is a new confirmed case of COVID-19 in a home.

The varying responses by states to nursing home testing is another example of the country's patchwork response to the pandemic that also underscores the Trump administration's limited influence. The president has preferred to offload key responsibilities and decisions to states and governors, despite calls for a coordinated national response.

"All of this is probably not as well thought out as it could have been," said Dr. Jim Wright, the medical director at a Virginia nursing home where dozens of residents have died. "It sounds more like an impulsive type of directive rather than one that has been completely vetted by providers on the ground."

On May 11, Trump heralded his administration's efforts to boost coronavirus testing and said the U.S. had developed the "most advanced, robust testing system in the world, by far." That same day, Vice President Mike Pence hosted a private conference call with the state's governors, where White House adviser Dr. Deborah Birx

requested that each state target nursing homes to help lower the virus' death toll.

"Start now," Pence added, according to a recording of the call obtained by the AP.

Pence said later that day at a news conference that he was thinking of making it a mandatory requirement.

"I think it's very important to do and I think, frankly, some of the governors were very lax with respect to nursing homes," Trump said.

Birx acknowledged Friday that the two-week recommendation was a challenge but said it was needed because of the particular vulnerability of nursing homes.

"We should never be discouraged by those who can't get it done," she said. "We should be encouraged by those who have shown us that it can be done."

Alabama State Health Officer Scott Harris said meeting the White House's recommendation would mean testing 50,000 people in two weeks when it took three months for the state to test 150,000 people.

"It's just not possible," he said.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Start of summer draws crowds, triggers warnings

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Memorial Day weekend marking the unofficial start of summer meant big crowds at beaches and warnings from experts Sunday about people disregarding the coronavirus social-distancing rules and risking a resurgence of the scourge that has killed nearly 100,000 Americans.

Sheriff's deputies and beach patrols tried to make sure people kept their distance from others as they soaked up the rays on the sand and at parks and other recreation sites around the country.

In the Tampa area along Florida's Gulf Coast, the crowds were so big that authorities took the extraordinary step of closing parking lots because they were full. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said about 300 deputies were patrolling the beaches to ensure people didn't get too close.

On the Sunday talk shows, Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said she was "very concerned" about scenes of people crowding together over the weekend.

"We really want to be clear all the time that social distancing is absolutely critical. And if you can't social distance and you're outside, you must wear a mask," she said on ABC's "This Week."

In Missouri, people packed bars and restaurants at the Lake of the Ozarks, a vacation hot spot popular with Chicagoans, over the weekend. One video showed a crammed pool where vacationers lounged close together without masks. St. Louis station KMOV-TV reported.

In West Virginia, ATV riders

jammed the vast, 700-mile Hatfield-McCoy network of all-terrain vehicle trails on the first weekend it was allowed to reopen since the outbreak took hold. Campgrounds and cabins were opened as well.

"We truly appreciate getting to reopen," Jeff Lusk, executive director of the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority, told the Charleston Gazette-Mail. "Being able to open now will help our trail businesses recover."

In Daytona Beach, Fla., gunfire erupted Saturday night along a beachside road where more than 200 people had gathered and were seen partying and dancing despite the restrictions. Several people were wounded and taken to the hospital, authorities said.

The U.S. is on track to surpass 100,000 coronavirus deaths in the next few days, while Europe has seen over 169,000 dead, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that almost certainly understates the toll.

The issue of wearing masks in public and staying several feet apart has become fraught politically, with some Americans taking to the streets to protest such rules as a violation of their rights.

Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, of Ohio, who has been targeted by such demonstrations, insisted the precautions should not be a partisan issue.

"This is not about politics. This is not about whether you are liberal or conservative, left or right, Republican or Democrat," DeWine said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "It's been very clear what the studies have shown, you wear the mask not to protect yourself so much as to protect others."



A motorcade of veterans stops outside Brooklyn Veterans Affairs Medical Center as wreaths are laid beside memorial stones on the grounds Monday in New York.

JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Car convoys, small ceremonies mark Memorial Day in NY

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New Yorkers marked Memorial Day with car convoys and small ceremonies instead of parades, as those looking to honor fallen military members contended with coronavirus restrictions.

"It's something we're upset about, but we understand," said Raymond Alabue, chairman of the United Military Veterans of Kings County, which usually puts on a parade in Brooklyn.

There's "no reason to put anybody in harm's way," he said. Still, "it's really cutting quick to the heart of all the veterans."

His organization was to have a convoy of 10 cars leaving from the Bay Ridge spot where the parade usually starts and then ending at Brooklyn Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where participants would line up next to their cars for a salute and a wreath-laying ceremony.

Elsewhere in the borough, Mayor Bill de Blasio was due at a wreath-laying at the Brooklyn War Memorial.

On Long Island, a small group of veterans saluted, wearing masks and spaced several feet apart to observe social distancing, as a parade of cars passed beneath a large American flag by the Eisenhower Park Veterans Memorial on Monday morning. The parade and wreath-laying were closed to the public but streamed on Nassau County Executive Laura Curran's Facebook page.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined a private ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan, with both the sacrifices of military members and the current challenge of coronavirus on his mind.

"Over 100,000 Americans will lose their lives to this COVID virus. How do we honor them? We honor them by growing stronger together," he said. "We want to make sure we remember them and thank our heroes today."

As the holiday approached, Cuomo loosened coronavirus-related restrictions last week to

allow small public gatherings — initially just for Memorial Day observances and religious services. He extended the eased rules Friday to all gatherings after the New York Civil Liberties Union sued, saying that if it was safe to gather to honor veterans and practice religion, the Constitution requires the same right be extended to other gatherings.

The rules now allow get-togethers of as many as 10 people, provided that participants stay at least 6 feet away from one another or cover their faces when unable to maintain that distance.

While many ceremonies this year reflected the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, officials in Rochester held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a memorial that commemorates Americans killed in more recent conflicts. The city's forthcoming War on Terror Memorial will honor local members of the military who have died in wars since the 1990s. Construction is due to start next year.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, arrive to place a wreath at Delaware Memorial Bridge Veterans Memorial Park, on Monday in New Castle, Del.

In first in-person appearance in more than 2 months, Biden honors the fallen

Associated Press

NEW CASTLE, Del. — Joe Biden made his first in-person appearance in more than two months Monday as he marked Memorial Day by laying a wreath at a veterans park near his Delaware home.

Since abruptly canceling a March 10 rally in Cleveland at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee has waged much of his campaign from his home in Wilmington. When Biden emerged Monday, he wore a face mask, in contrast to Presi-

dent Donald Trump, who has refused to cover his face in public as health officials suggest.

Biden and his wife, Jill, laid a wreath of white flowers tied with a white bow, and bowed their heads in silence at the park. He saluted and could be heard saying "Never forget."

"I feel great to be out here," Biden told reporters after his words muffled through his black cloth mask. His visit to the park was unannounced and there was no crowd waiting for him.

But Biden briefly greeted a county official and another man,

both wearing face masks and standing a few feet away. His campaign says Biden has gone to the park for Memorial Day in the past, though services were canceled Monday in the pandemic.

Though low-key, the appearance was a milestone in a presidential campaign that has largely been frozen by the coronavirus outbreak. While the feasibility of traditional events such as rallies and the presidential conventions are in doubt, Biden's emergence suggests he won't spend the nearly five months that remain until the election entirely at home.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Houses of worship slowly emerge from lockdown

BY GARY FIELDS
AND SALLY STAPLETON
Associated Press

For the first time in two months, there was clapping, singing and fellowship inside Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, Ky., as members of the congregation returned to the sanctuary for Sunday morning services. There also were masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing.

On a weekend when President Donald Trump declared houses of worship essential and asked governors to reopen them, some congregants around the country headed for their places of worship with numerous precautions in place.

Those services in the U.S. followed a frantic two days in which at least one governor reached an agreement with religious leaders in Minnesota to ease restrictions on in-person services while a federal appeals court upheld another's continuing shutdown of such services.

For Stithton Baptist, the reopening wasn't about restrictions, Trump's declaration or the release of guidelines by the federal Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention for reopening faith organizations.

On May 8, a federal court halted Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear's temporary ban on mass gatherings from applying to in-person religious services, clearing the way for Sunday church services, with guidelines. Pastor Denver Copeland said his congregation has been meeting in the church parking lot for drive-in services since March 29 and hasn't rushed back, even though his sanctuary space meets the 33% occupancy requirement. "We just weren't ready," the pastor said. They made their plans to hold in-person services three weeks ago.

Copeland said Friday's CDC release of religious guidelines "made it all the more legit" for the timing of their return to in-church services. In a sanctuary that can legally accommodate 1,400, the normal Sunday attendance is 200. Sunday, every



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Parishioners sing during a service at Grace Bible Church on Sunday in Tempe, Ariz. Parishioners practiced social distancing, most wearing face coverings, as the church held its first in-person service since March due to the coronavirus.

other pew was marked off to enforce social distancing and individual bags of masks, gloves and hand sanitizer were available at all three entrances that were left open prior to and after the service.

Tension over when and how to reopen houses of worship has varied depending on the state, as different areas set their own pace for easing pandemic stay-at-home orders. While many announced they would resume in-person services next Sunday on Pentecost, others joined Stithton in returning to their places of worship over the weekend.

Faith Baptist Church in Palmhurst, Texas, west of McAllen, held an hourlong

service. The church announced its plans on its website May 19, along with an extensive list of precautions, including urging members over 65 or those with immune system vulnerabilities to consider viewing the service online.

"We're doing our best to follow what the government has asked us to do. But we also want to be able to try and have services so this is probably how it's going to be looking for at least a few weeks," Tad Wychopien II, the assistant pastor, told the attendees.

During his message, Senior Pastor R. David Harris also emphasized the cautious approach. "Church gathering is important but at this point there's still health issues

and we still don't know where things are going," he said.

Many in the Muslim community took a different path in celebrating the Eid al-Fitr — the feast of breaking the fast — that marks the end of Ramadan, when Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. Just like they did during Ramadan, many resorted to at-home worship and relied on technology for online gatherings, sermons and, now, Eid entertainment.

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi, resident scholar at East Plano Islamic Center in Texas, delivered an Eid sermon broadcast online from a mosque closed to the public. Outside, his mosque organized a drive-thru Eid celebration, one of many at mosques around the country, for kids in cars to pick up goody bags while maintaining social distancing.

Over the weekend at least one stand-off with a governor eased while another intensified.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz announced he scrapped his 10-person limit on group gatherings and allowing churches to open at 25% occupancy if certain safety guidelines are met.

While the leader of the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, welcomed the change, he said parishes should not open if they don't feel they can meet safety measures. The Roman Catholic and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations had announced they planned to defy Walz's previous order.

The battle over in-person services continued in California. A split 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel upheld California Gov. Gavin Newsom's ban on in-person services. He vowed to provide plans Monday for how religious institutions can reopen. Many in California had already announced they would violate the state order and hold in-person services next Sunday, on Pentecost.

Muslims in India, Bangladesh celebrate a subdued Eid-al Fitr

BY JULHAS ALAM
Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Muslims in India and Bangladesh joined prayers to celebrate a subdued Eid-al Fitr on Monday, marking the end of the Ramadan holy month by seeking blessings for a world free from coronavirus.

Across India, government leaders and imams appealed to Eid celebrants to follow lockdown norms and maintain social distance. Bangladesh's leader stressed public safety in her Eid greetings.

The three-day holiday that begins by the sighting of the moon is usually a time of travel, family gatherings and feasts after weeks of dawn-to-dusk fasting. But this year, Muslims were praying at home, their celebrations quieter and tinged with worry about the virus and the impact of lockdowns and other restrictions to curb the spread of the virus.

Outside New Delhi's iconic Mumtaz-e-Jamia mosque, closed

as part of a ban on religious congregations, security officers patrolled the streets and almost all shops were closed barring a sweet shop. Police made rounds on motorbikes and a mini police camp stood just outside a gate.

"It's been 1,400 years since the Islam religion was founded ... even our elders could never imagine that we will have to celebrate Eid in such a way," said businesswoman Shehzad Khan.

He said money typically spent buying new clothes to wear for Eid was sent to the poor, who have lost livelihoods due to the virus and the measures taken to contain it. "That money we have given them so that they too can celebrate Eid with us," Khan said.

In Bangladesh, authorities asked people to avoid mass prayers in open fields, which draw tens of thousands normally. Devotees could join prayers at mosques by maintaining safe distances.

On Monday morning, those

than 300,000 mosques wore masks, and many wore gloves as well.

In the capital's main Baitul Mukarram mosque, thousands joined the prayers in phases as authorities allowed them to enter in groups and prayers were held every hour. Many waited in lines for more than an hour to enter the premises.

"This is a new experience. We never felt like this," government official Abdul Halim said after attending the prayer in Dhaka.

"I did not bring my two sons for the prayers, they are staying home. My family could not visit my parents this time," he said.

India has climbed to among the world's largest outbreaks with more than 138,000 cases and 4,000 deaths. It has eased its strict lockdown in recent weeks, including allowing domestic flights to resume starting Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his greeting to Muslims.

"Eid Mubarak!" Modi tweeted.



MANISH SWARUP/AP

Indian Muslims gather for Eid al-Fitr prayers inside their house in New Delhi, India, on Monday. The holiday of Eid al-Fitr, usually a joyous three-day celebration, has been significantly toned down as coronavirus cases soar.

"May this special occasion further the spirit of compassion, brotherhood and harmony. May everyone be healthy and prosperous," he said.

New cases and deaths from COVID-19 were rising in Bangladesh, which has 33,000 cases and 480 deaths.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

offered Eid greetings but stressed the need for maintaining health guidelines and for individuals to stay safe.

"Your safety is in your hands. Remember that if you remain safe, you are also keeping your family, neighbors and the country safe," she said in an address to the nation.

NATION

China demands US withdraw sanctions on tech suppliers

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — China demanded Monday that Washington withdraw export sanctions imposed on Chinese companies in the latest round of a worsening conflict over technology security and human rights.

The foreign ministry accused the Trump administration of interfering in China's affairs by adding eight companies accused of playing roles in a crackdown in its Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang to an export blacklist.

Washington also put controls on access to American technology for 24 companies and government-linked entities that it said may be involved in obtaining goods with potential military uses.

The U.S. decision "violated basic norms of international relations" and "harmed China's interests," said a ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian.

"We urge the United States to correct its mistakes, revoke the relevant decision and stop interfering in China's internal affairs," Zhao said.

The measures announced Friday expanded a U.S. campaign

against Chinese companies, including tech giant Huawei, that Washington said might be security threats.

Beijing criticized curbs imposed earlier on Huawei Technologies Ltd. and other companies, including Hikvision Digital Technology Ltd., a supplier of video security products. It has yet to say whether it will retaliate.

One company cited Friday in connection with Xinjiang is accused of "engaging in human rights violations," the Commerce Department said. The rest are accused of "enabling China's high-technology surveillance."

One of the technology suppliers, CloudWalk Technology Ltd., which makes facial recognition systems, said in a statement that such "unfair treatment" will hurt American companies and global development.

The company accused of human rights violations, Aksu Huafu Textiles Co., said in a statement that the U.S. decision "recklessly disregards facts."

The company said that it won't be affected because any American materials can be replaced by Chinese sources.



BILL INGALLS, NASA/AP

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard is seen on the launch pad at Launch Complex 39A during a brief static fire test ahead of NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission.

Trump, Pence in Florida to watch US astronaut launch

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

STERLING, Va. — President Donald Trump plans to be on the Florida coast Wednesday to watch American astronauts blast into orbit from the Kennedy Space Center for the first time in nearly a decade.

It will be the first time since the space shuttle program ended in 2011 that U.S. astronauts will launch into space on an American rocket from American soil.

Also new Wednesday: a private company — not NASA — is running the show.

Elon Musk's SpaceX is the conductor and NASA the customer as businesses begin chauffeuring astronauts to the International Space Station. With American shuttles no longer in use, the United States has had to rely on Russia for rides to the station.

The NASA/SpaceX Commercial Crew flight test launch will carry NASA's newest test pilots, Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, in a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

They're scheduled to blast off at 4:33 p.m. EDT from launch pad

39A, the same one the Apollo astronauts used to get to the moon.

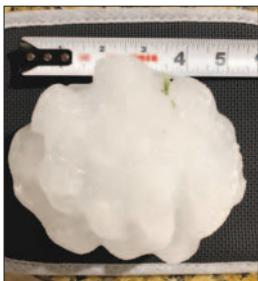
The White House portrayed the launch as an extension of Trump's promise to reassert American dominance in space. He recently oversaw creation of the Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces.

Vice President Mike Pence, who is chairman of the National Space Council, also plans to attend Wednesday's launch.

NASA has discouraged spectators, citing the pandemic, and is limiting the number of visitors inside the space center.

North Texas town pounded by grapefruit-sized hailstones

By MATTHEW CAPPUCCI
The Washington Post



RICK SMITH/National Weather Service Norman
Shown is a five-inch hailstone that fell on Burk Burnett, Texas, on Friday.

There's hail, there's big hail and then there's what fell on Burk Burnett, Texas, about 10 miles north of Wichita Falls, on Friday afternoon. Hail topping five inches in diameter crashed like meteors on the town, punching holes through home roofs and leaving craters in the ground.

Officially, the largest recovered stone came in at a whopping 5.33 inches across, roughly the length of an iPhone 6. To put it differently, this hail was wider than many grapefruits and exceeded the diameter of a typical DVD. It weighed in at nearly a pound.

Social media images began circulating Friday evening of what appeared to be a chunk of ice that took both hands to hold. An 8-year-old recovered one of the whoppers after the storm passed. Another resident compared one of the stones to a softball.

One of the largest hailstones was first measured by a broadcast meteorologist from a Wichita Falls station, which led to the 5.33-inch value that officially went in the books. Rick Smith, the warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Norman, Okla., stopped by to investigate the hail while en route to inspect for nearby tornado damage.

"I went down there to survey the tornado tracks, and was especially interested in what happened west of Bowie," Smith said. He said that he was skeptical after seeing the photos on social media, but was ultimately able to confirm what happened.

"I held at least two (five-inch hailstones) in my hand yesterday, so it was legit," Smith said Sunday.

Areas that experienced the mega hail-storm wound up with significant hail damage to vehicles and structures.

"I visited one home where a four-inch hailstone made it all the way through the

bathroom ceiling and onto the bathroom floor," said Smith. Insulation can be seen on the stone in a photo he took.

Smith noted that a number of residents even reported craters in their yards from the giant hail.

"Smarter, they didn't run out while the hail was falling. The two five-plus-inch hailstones that I got to see were fairly close together ... about a half-mile away."

What impressed Smith the most was the number of large hailstones that were recovered. In hailstorms, the largest stones often fall among a much greater quantity of smaller hailstones. The fact that multiple five-inch stones were retrieved and that damage was so widely reported, at least locally, highlights the impressive nature of the event.

Smith also confirmed three weak tornadoes on the survey, but the specifics are still being determined. No damage to structures was reported, however.



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WORLD



RICHARD WAINWRIGHT, AAP IMAGE/AP

Debris from damaged shops can be seen Monday in Perth, Australia.

Severe storm lashes west Australian coast

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Tens of thousands of homes and businesses lost power, buildings were battered and trees were uprooted as a vast stretch of the west Australian coast was whipped by a severe storm Monday for the second straight day.

No casualties were reported from what Acting Assistant Commissioner of Western Australia's Department of Fire and Emergency Services Jon Brumfield called a "once-in-a-decadetime" storm system.

The combined weather system lashed a 745-mile stretch of the west coast from Carnarvon to Cape Leeuwin and included the state capital, Perth, with winds gusting at over 56 miles per hour overnight. Bureau of Meteorology manager Neil Bennett said.

The storm was subsiding by Monday afternoon. Up to 65,000 homes and businesses had lost power at the height of the emergency. But power had been restored to all but 24,000 by Monday afternoon, Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan said.

Israel's Netanyahu lashes out at country's justice system

BY ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — To the sounds of his impassioned supporters chanting outside, a defiant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu strode into a Jerusalem courtroom Sunday to face corruption charges in a long-awaited trial that has overshadowed three inconclusive elections and deeply divided the country.

As he entered the courthouse to begin the country's first sitting prime minister to go on trial, Netanyahu launched into a lengthy tirade against the nation's justice system in which he accused police, prosecutors, judges and the media of a deep state-type conspiracy aimed to oust him against the will of the people.

"I stand before you with a straight back and head raised high," he said, surrounded by leading ministers of his Cabinet. "The objective is to depose a strong, right-wing prime minister, and thus remove the nationalist camp from the leadership of

the country for many years."

The standoff, and Netanyahu's own fiery rhetoric, looked to worsen the nation's deep divisions just after Netanyahu swore in what he called a "unity" government with a former rival. Critics have said that Netanyahu's repeated attacks on the legal system risk irreversible damage to citizens' faith in state institutions.

Outside the courthouse, hundreds of supporters rallied in his defense, packing a narrow street while waving Israeli flags and banners denouncing what they called a corrupt prosecution seeking to topple a leader of their proportion. Others gathered at his official residence to demonstrate against what they called a "crime minister" and carried posters calling for his resignation. They faced off across police barricades with more of the prime minister's backers.

Netanyahu faces charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of corruption cases stemming from ties to wealthy friends. He is accused of

accepting lavish gifts and offering to grant favors to powerful media moguls in exchange for favorable coverage of him and his family. He has denied the charges, which come after years of scandals swirling around the family.

Netanyahu did not speak during the one-hour session, rising just once to confirm that he understood the charges. He will not be required to attend future hearings during a case that legal analysts expect to stretch over several years. The next hearing is scheduled for July 19.

Before the session, Netanyahu said that police and prosecutors had conspired "to stick up" a case against him, and that the evidence was "contaminated" and exaggerated. He called for the court proceedings to be broadcast live on TV to ensure "full transparency."

"While the media continues to deal with nonsense, with these false, trumped up cases, I will continue to lead the state of Israel and deal with issues that really matter to you," he said.

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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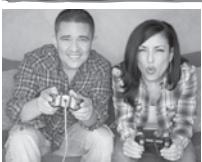
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man set fire in hospital room

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police said a man in a north Philadelphia hospital for drug detoxification barricaded himself in a room in the emergency department and set fire to bed-sheets, but no one was injured.

Police said the 30- to 40-year-old man was searched by security at Temple University Hospital's Episcopal Campus and placed in a room. Police said he barricaded himself inside and turned on oxygen tanks, then lit the bed-sheets on fire.

Police said a maintenance man broke a window and the man climbed out and fought with security, but police arrived and arrested him.

Coach suspended over reports of practice

FL MIAMI — A Florida high school football coach was suspended as administrators investigate whether he held practice against rules and stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The Miami Herald reported that Miami Northwestern Senior High School has launched an investigation when it learned there had been unauthorized football training. The football coach Max Edwards was suspended indefinitely.

Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, a spokeswoman for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, said the school was in communication with parents of students who may have practiced during the unauthorized training.

Boy cracks case by reeling in sunken safe

SC JOHNS ISLAND — A 6-year-old boy helped crack open a nearby decade-old robbery case when he reeled in a locked safe from the bottom of a sunken lake.

Knox Brewer took up "magnet fishing" and began hunting for metal objects underwater as a way to pass time during the coronavirus pandemic, his family members told WCIV-TV.

The boy was out at Whitney Lake when the magnet attached to his line stuck to something heavy, the news outlet reported. Knox pulled in and pried open what turned out to be a water-logged lockbox containing debris-covered jewelry and credit cards, as well as a checkbook, according to a video of the discovery.

Authorities determined the sunken safe belonged to a woman who lived across the street from the lake. She said it had been stolen from her home eight years ago, the outlet reported.

School director charged in plot to steal \$700K

NC RALEIGH — A school director has been charged with plotting to steal approximately \$700,000 in student financial aid to help fund a religious leader's North Carolina



RICK BOWMER/AP

Adrenaline rush

People ride the Cannibal at Lagoon Amusement Park on Saturday, in Farmington, Utah. After a season break that was extended for months by COVID-19 restrictions, the park reopened for business just in time for the Memorial Day weekend. Lagoon officials said a new reservation system is in place to help manage social distancing and avoid crowding at the park entrance, and capacity will be limited to about 15% of its usual maximum volume.

ranch.

Brenda Joyce Hall, 51, faces federal charges including aggravated identity theft and conspiracy to commit student loan fraud, according to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

An indictment said Hall used fabricated high school transcripts to fraudulently acquire hundreds of thousands of dollars in student aid and used the money to fund the operations of the ranch and make other purchases.

Teen rescued after fall into abandoned shaft

AZ NEW RIVER — Firefighters rescued a teenage boy from an abandoned mine shaft after he fell about 50 feet while driving an all-terrain vehicle in a desert area on the northern outskirts of metro Phoenix.

The 17-year-old boy was taken to hospital for evaluation after being pulled out of the shaft near New River.

Rescuers arriving at the scene found the boy at the bottom of the shaft with the ATV on top of him.

Indictment: Explosions used to rob ATMs

FL TAMPA — Two men have been indicted on charges using small explosions to rob ATMs in Florida.

A federal grand jury in Tampa

THE CENSUS

\$588K

18 arrest warrant reported by local news outlets. Knight worked as an account supervisor for Informart, a Marietta company that specializes in corporate background checks. He wasn't authorized to write checks to himself, his arrest warrant states. But according to the Cobb County Sheriff's Office, Knight wrote himself 130 checks worth \$587,926.10 between January 2018 and September 2019.

returned indictments charging Mawdo Malick Sallah, 33, of Clearwater, Fla., and Kirk Douglas Johnson, 34, of Anderson, S.C., with eight counts each, according to court records.

Sallah and Johnson took nearly \$70,000 from several Tampa Bay area ATMs and vandalized others without taking any cash, according to a criminal complaint. Investigators believe the men injected some type of flammable fuel into the machines and used a spark to ignite it.

Man gets 8 years in jail for \$2M cocaine bust

NC RALEIGH — A man has been sentenced to eight years in prison for his role in a North Carolina cocaine bust that netted \$2 million and 176 pounds of the illegal drug.

The Raleigh-based federal prosecutor's office announced that Andrew Richard Rodarte,

The amount a former employee wrote in checks to himself from his employer at a suburban Atlanta business, Joshua A. Knight of Kennesaw is charged with felony theft by conversion, according to his May

73, was sentenced after previously pleading guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

A news release from prosecutors said that Rodarte was observed during a drug surveillance operation driving a semi-truck to a trailer home in the rural town of Littleton where men were seen unloading duffed bags.

Officers served a search warrant on the home and found four duffed bags inside a bedroom closet that each held approximately 44 pounds of cocaine, according to court documents.

Authorities said they then found Rodarte at a truck stop and located \$2.2 million in cash in a hidden compartment of his truck.

Counterfeit oxycodone caused 3 ODs, 1 fatal

MN MANKATO — Officials said one man has died and two others are recovering from an overdose of counter-

feit oxycodone pills in Mankato.

The city's Department of Public Safety said first responders found the three overdose victims in an apartment.

Marcus Kory Krogh, 23, was pronounced dead at the scene. The other two were taken to the Mayor Clinic Health System hospital where one was admitted to the intensive care unit and the other was treated and released.

Decapitated wild turkey found at sanctuary

NM ROSWELL — Authorities are searching for a suspect after the discovery of a decapitated wild turkey and destruction of several duck eggs near a New Mexico bird sanctuary.

The Roswell Daily Record reported a reward is being offered for any information about the turkey's decapitation and destruction of duck eggs around the J. Kenneth Smith Bird Sanctuary & Nature Center in Roswell.

Roswell Parks & Recreation Director Jim Burrell said the carcass of the wild turkey was found on a walking trail at the sanctuary.

Burrell said the culprit could have been the work of an animal such as a raccoon, skunk, or fox, but officials suspect a human because of recent vandalism.

From wire reports

FACES

'The Outpost' sets July 2 release date

By JOSH RITTENBURG
Los Angeles Times

With pandemic-shuttered movie theaters cautiously inching toward a hoped-for reopening this summer, Fathom Events announced May 22 that it will hold special event screenings of the military thriller "The Outpost" on 500 screens July 2, followed by a more limited theatrical run.

The screenings of the Rod Lurie-directed film, starring Scott Eastwood, Caleb Landry Jones and Orlando Bloom, is scheduled to come just one day after the planned opening of the Russell Crowe psychological thriller "Unhinged," which is set to be the first major new theatrical release since the coronavirus outbreak shut down multiplexes in March. Based on CNN anchor Jake Tapper's nonfiction book "The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor," the film follows a unit of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan as it battles against an overwhelming force of Taliban fighters.

Fathom Events, which has carved out its own niche in the distribution landscape with special screenings of musical performances, faith-based content and classic films, is partnering with Screen Media to bring "The Outpost" to 500 screens, with each showing preceded by a special introduction from the film's cast members and behind-the-scenes footage.

"We are thrilled to partner with Fathom Events to bring this heroic tale to theatrical audiences everywhere," David Fannon, president of Screen Media, said in a statement. "Independence Day is the perfect time for the country to come back to theaters, and 'The Outpost' couldn't be a better movie for them to come and experience on the big screen."

But while Independence Day may, indeed, seem like a symbolically fortuitous occasion to release a rousing patriotic military thriller, it's far from clear whether moviegoers will feel comfortable flocking back to their local multiplexes then or if the theaters will even be open.

Two of the country's biggest chains, Cinemark and AMC, have signaled that they hope to open their doors in July. But while some states, including Georgia and Texas, have already begun to allow theaters to resume operations with limited seating and other social-distancing restrictions, it is still uncertain when theaters in large cities like Los Angeles and New York will reopen.

In the meantime, with audiences remaining hunkered down, distributors continue to shift some planned big-screen releases to at-home viewing.

Focus Features announced May 22 that Jon Stewart's political comedy "Irresistible," which stars Steve Carell and Rose Byrne and had been slated to hit theaters on May 29, will be available on premium video-on-demand on June 26.



Perry ready to reopen

Producer eager to resume filming at Atlanta studio; other filmmakers waiting for Hollywood go-ahead

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Tyler Perry is planning to make his Atlanta-based mega studio one of the first domestic filming grounds to reopen during the coronavirus pandemic. But while Perry is looking to restart production in July, other studios in Georgia and beyond are anxiously waiting for Hollywood's green light.

"We're taking the lead from our production partners," said Frank Patterson, president of the sprawling Pinewood Studios, located in suburban Atlanta. The studio has been home to big-budget films such as "The Avengers: Endgame" and "Ant-Man" along with the television show "The Walking Dead."

"There's no one place in the industry that's making the decisions about when we get back to work," he continued. "There are a lot of stakeholders. We're working with the task forces of the studios and the guilds, unions and the associations. Just listening to everyone and making certain that when the industry decides it's time to go back to work, that Pinewood Studios will be ready."

Georgia has become known as the Hollywood of the South with a surge of film and TV productions companies and several studios opening up over the past several years. The entertainment industry shuttered productions in March because of safety concerns during the coronavirus pandemic. With Los Angeles County still under stay-at-home orders and production shutdown, some are looking to Georgia as a possible destination to film.

After Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp declared that nonessential businesses in the state could reopen in late April, Perry emerged with a strategic plan to reopen his massive 330-acre studio, which has become a production powerhouse rivaling Hollywood's best.

Perry believes he's ready to move forward at Tyler Perry Studios to produce his own content such as the BET series "Sistas" and "The Oval." The Hollywood Reporter obtained a 30-page production protocol document to cast, detailing health measures from testing in their hometown, traveling on a Perry-arranged private jet and doing another rapid test. Perry declined to comment for this story.

Many in the industry want to see how Perry's

protocol will unfold. The Screen Actors Guild said in a statement that it's uncertain when production will return.

"You're going to have some discomfort at first that's eventually broken by those who just want to kind of get back to the way things were," said Kevin Hart, who filmed several projects in Atlanta including "Night School" and "Jumanji." The actor-comedian said he would be willing to fly from his home in Los Angeles to Georgia to film if it's a "plan that we vetted out."

Patterson said conversations between industry stakeholders about work safety protocols have been ongoing for nearly two months, and

he wouldn't be surprised if "we figured out a way to return in the fall." He said there's "immense pressure" to get the whole industry back to work, but the health of actors and crew is the priority.

From a business point of view, if we were to jump the gun and start working, and we how to do it safely, it might cost everyone in the long run," he said. "It would be a bad business decision and bad human decision. ... That's why we're moving a little bit more carefully and slowly than everybody wants us to."

Some in the industry's workforce are willing to take a risk, while others have a more careful stance.

"I think people are more willing to take the chance of getting sick than the chance of losing their house or getting behind on bills," said Shauna Galligan, a veteran stunt double whose credits include "Avengers: Infinity War," "Insurgent" and "The Walking Dead." She's returning to work next month as a stunt coordinator for an independent film in Alabama.

"I know a lot of my friends in L.A., they're taking the precautions," Galligan said. "I don't know anybody that would not take work at this moment because of it. I think everybody is ready to take that risk and get life back to normal."

Actor-filmmaker Tyler Perry, shown in New York in 2017, plans to reopen his 330-acre Atlanta studio complex in July. It would be one of the first to reopen since production halted in March.

'Some Good News' gets new home, host

Some Good News for fans of "Some Good News."

The popular digital series, created and originally hosted by John Krasinski, has been acquired by ViacomCBS. Future episodes will feature a new, yet-to-be-announced host and premiere on CBS All Access. It's also expected to air on the company's linear TV channels, including Comedy Central. Krasinski will serve as an executive producer.

"Could not be more excited and proud to be partnering with CBS/Viacom to be able to bring 'Some Good News' to so many more people," Krasinski said in a statement May 21. "From the first episode, our goal was to create a news show dedicated entirely to good news. Never did I expect to be joining the ranks of such a historic news organization as CBS."

The news follows the May 17 finale of "Some Good News'" original run. For eight weeks, the viral feel-good YouTube series showcased everyday people and offered comfort through celebrity-studded cast reunions, surprise advice for graduates and even a virtual prom.

A launch date for the new series has not been announced.

The Muppets back with new show for Disney+

The Muppets, the popular puppet characters from the television show of the 1970s, will get another shot at reaching a new audience this summer.

The Muppets Studio announced on May 20 that its first original series for Disney+ will be called "Muppets Now."

Launching July 31, the series promises an overflowing of "spontaneous lunacy, surprising guest stars and more frogs, pigs, bears (and whatever) than legally allowed," and will kick off with the six-episode first season following Scooter navigating "whatever obstacles, distractions, and complications the rest of the Muppet gang throws at him" while he tries to launch their first streaming show.

Japanese pro wrestler in reality show dies

Hana Kimura, a Japanese pro wrestler who appeared in the latest series of the popular reality show "Terrace House," has died. She was 22.

Her organization Stardom Wrestling confirmed Kimura's death May 23. It said details are still largely unknown.

Kimura was found dead at her home, Japanese media said.

Kimura became the target of massive bullying on social media over her role in the "Terrace House" show on Netflix, which involves three men and three women temporarily living together at a shared house in Tokyo. The show was temporarily suspended due to the coronavirus.

In her latest Instagram posting Friday, she published a photo of herself and her cat, with a message saying "Goodbye."

From wire reports


STARS AND STRIPES
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Ernie Gates

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BY JIM MATTIS
Special to The Washington Post

On Memorial Day this year, we may be keeping social distance from one another, but that cannot detract from the sense of closeness, the sense of community and the sense of shared sacrifice that we feel for one another on a day when we come face-to-face with the human cost of freedom.

What do we owe our fallen and their families on this day? Remembrance, for sure, yet we also owe a keen awareness of what they fought to defend: this great big experiment we call America.

The Founders — most of whom were military veterans — knew that the nation they were forming was an experiment, a test of the idea that people could live together and rule themselves, guided by the spirit of cooperation. The Constitution they devised was itself hammered out among those willing to compromise, giving birth to this experiment.

Upon being elected the first American president, Gen. George Washington at his inauguration said, "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

In his wisdom and humility, Washington saw the daunting challenge of keeping our experiment alive, and the role of American citizens in proving to the world that people didn't need a king or a tyrant: We, the people, could rule ourselves.

Following the nation's rugged birth, this radical idea has periodically needed defending by patriots, many of whom have given their lives and whom we honor on this day.

Generation after generation of patriots have given their all to keep this precious legacy alive.

Those include the Union soldiers who gave their last full measure to hold the nation together and cast out the heinous practice of slavery, imported from the Old World, that had been a defect since America's birth.

President Abraham Lincoln's short address dedicating a military cemetery at Gettysburg in 1863, he exhorted his listeners to resolve "that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln knew he had to say it out loud: This republican form of government could, in fact, perish — unless we fought for it, unless we dedicated our lives to living up to its ideals, unless we were willing to compromise with one another, while working always to improve the fairness of life for every American.

Nearly a century later, President John F. Kennedy — a World War II veteran — echoed that message in his 1961 inaugural address when he said we must be ready to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship... to assure the survival and success of liberty."

Generation after generation of patriots have given their all to keep this precious legacy alive. That is why we gather every year to pay our respects to those who went down swinging to protect and defend our

Constitution and our way of life.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines serve a country that, even in its most raucous times, is worth defending. They swear to do so at their personal peril, signing a blank check to all the American people, payable with their lives.

Our veterans have learned the hard way, having lost buddies in battle, that this nation has no ordained right to exist. America's freedoms do not stand unassailed. Dictators and authoritarian look with fear on our freedom, our experiment, our republican model — a model that has long served as an inspiration to oppressed peoples everywhere.

We are most indebted to our veterans who fell, and their families, for the survival of this experiment. They can never be fully repaid, but we begin to do so by respecting one another in this land of boundless possibilities, because those who faced down danger and paid the price on our behalf deserve no less.

Many of us enjoy America's freedom by an accident of birth, yet we all live in this land by our own choice. It is our responsibility to show respect and genuine friendship to each other as fellow citizens — including those with whom we sometimes disagree — by unifying around our radical idea. That is how we can meet our ultimate responsibility: to turn over to the next generation a republic in better shape than we received it.

Those who fell while wearing our nation's cloth in defense of freedom, and the Gold Star families of their survivors, paid an everlasting price. Every American owes them a commitment to keeping vibrant the experiment for which they died.

Jim Mattis is a retired four-star Marine Corps general and former defense secretary. This op-ed is adapted from remarks prepared for a Memorial Day service in his hometown, Richland, Wash.

Change the nature of America's rules on roaming

BY KEN ILGUNAS
Special to The Washington Post

After weeks of walking in circles around cul-de-sacs and naming each blade of grass in re-discovered backyards, North Carolinians were given permission to visit their reopened (and now quite busy) state parks on Mother's Day weekend.

For many nature lovers, the return to normal isn't good enough. As in many other places in the United States, the parks draw crowds and can be distant, the car-dependent cities are often unwalkable and much of the countryside is off-limits. America has nature in abundance, but it isn't all that much more accessible than it was when parks were closed a month ago.

Here in the rolling foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, where I'm waiting out the pandemic at a friend's home in Stokes County, property owners long ago painted purple rings around trees — to mark property boundaries and warn off walkers — and some have sadistic signs warning, "Trespassers will be shot. Survivors will be shot again." County roads often have narrow shoulders and short sight lines. But venture into the fields or woods alongside them and (assuming no one's serious about the shooting) you risk a \$200 trespassing fine and even a jail sentence.

About 90% of the state of North Carolina is privately owned by people who — except where there are rights of way and easements — have the power to exclude. But I don't mean to pick on North Carolina. Draconian trespass laws in all states prevent Americans from exploring their local woods, fields and waters.

Contrast that with Scotland, where I live but to which I can't return at the moment. There, hikers are allowed to responsibly walk over private property and owners are prohibited from putting up unnecessary "no trespassing" signs. You can hike, camp and enjoy nature virtually anywhere, as long as you don't make a mess, disturb wildlife, invade someone's privacy or disrupt economic activity.

What's behind the difference? In Scotland, as well as elsewhere in Europe, private property is thought of in less absolute terms than it is in the United States. Of course property is still owned by individuals, but it's also seen at least partly as a commons.

In 2000, England and Wales passed the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, which opened up privately owned mountains, moors, heaths and down to the public for walking and picnicking. In 2009, another act opened up all 2,700 miles of England's coastline.

The Nordic countries offer even more generous roaming rights. Allemannsrett ("every man's right") is in the Swedish Constitution, guaranteeing the right to camp, swim, build campfires and gather wild produce, such as flowers, mushrooms and berries. Similar rights, whether formalized by law or accepted as historic custom, exist in Central Europe and the Baltics.

Now, COVID-19 has underscored the value of roaming rights. In Sweden, 80% to 90% of the country's land mass is open for responsible recreation, says Klas Sandell, a professor of human geography at Karlstad University, whose calculation considers off-limits developed areas, agricultural

lands and conservation zones. In the United States, I calculate that a little more than a quarter of the country is theoretically roammable. That sounds like plenty of space, but the great bulk of these places — mainly federal and state public lands — are either crowded (such as our heavily trafficked national parks), inaccessible or in sparsely populated Western states and Alaska.

Time spent in nature is good for our physical health. Japanese researchers have discovered that a "forest bath," which is essentially time spent in a forest, reduces blood pressure and levels of stress hormones. Nature is good for our mental health, too. Nils Hallberg, one of two people working exclusively for Sweden's right to roam within the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, said that "green prescriptions," in which doctors prescribe visits to nature to their patients, are becoming increasingly common.

Because of the coronavirus, we are rediscovering our backyards and neighborhoods. But as the need for social distancing continues, many will begin to feel stir-crazy in the same pedestrian-unfriendly sprawl, on the same dangerous country roads and around the same dull cul-de-sacs. A more evolved understanding of private property will help us feel healthier, freer, more equal and more connected to our communities and local environments. It'll help us get out of the house in good times and bad.

A crisis gives us an opportunity to rethink what we normally do things. An American right to roam is just what the doctor would order.

Ken Ilgunas is the author of "This Land Is Our Land: How We Lost the Right to Roam and How to Take It Back."

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

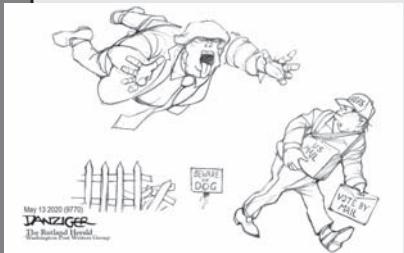


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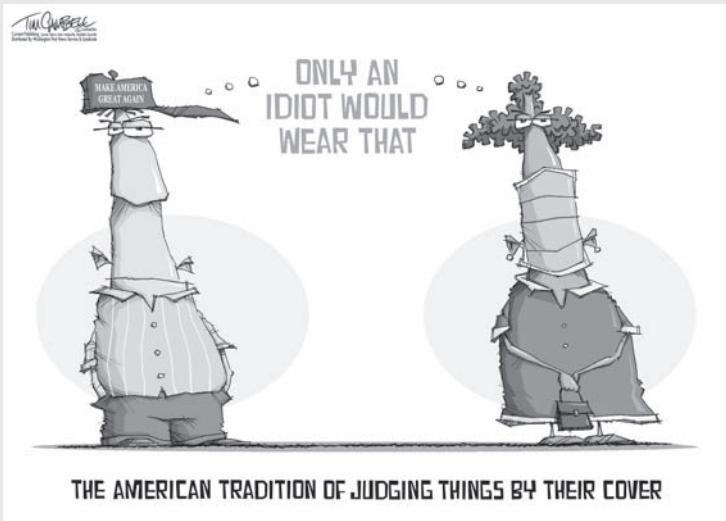
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Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group

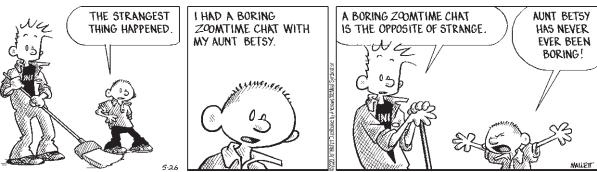


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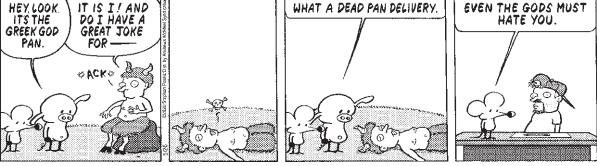
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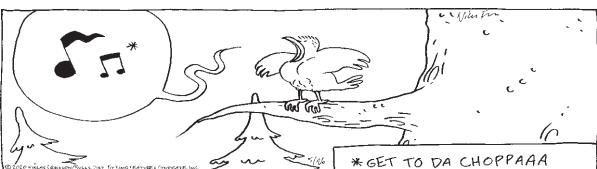
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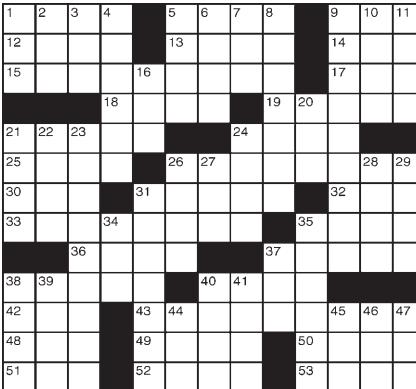
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Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

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24 Pres., to the
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26 Set in motion
30 Nap site
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32 Flamenco cry
33 Tall cupboards
35 Complain
36 Big fusses
37 Water trench
38 Photographer
Adams
40 Entryway
42 Hogwash
43 Veterans
48 St. crosser
49 Capricorn
50 Pakistan's
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51 Soap unit
52 Vacillate
53 500 sheets

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

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BASKETBALL/BASEBALL/SOCCER

EuroLeague cancels season

Basketball equivalent of Champions League in soccer won't determine a winner this year

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Europe's top basketball league canceled the remainder of its season Monday because of the coronavirus pandemic, saying health concerns had to be paramount despite numerous attempts to find ways to resume play.

The EuroLeague, which is composed of 18 teams across 10 European nations, had been suspended since March 12. League

officials said they "explored every possible option" in trying to find a way to resume the season.

"Without a doubt, this is the most difficult decision we have had to take in our 20-year history," EuroLeague Basketball President and CEO Jordi Bertomeu said.

"Due to reasons beyond our control, we have been forced to cut short the most successful and exciting season in European basketball history."

Jordi Bertomeu
affiliation

"Due to reasons beyond our control, we have been forced to cut short the most successful and exciting season in European basketball history."

The news came only two days after the NBA announced it, along with the National Basketball Players Association, has entered discussions with The Walt Disney Company on a single-site scenario for a resumption of play in Central Florida in late July.

Sports calendars around the globe have been ravaged since March because of the pandemic, with about 5.5 million people worldwide having been confirmed to have the coronavirus, according to data culled by researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

Larkin's team led the league with a 24-4 record this season but will not be recognized as champions, with that trophy simply not being awarded this season.

The EuroLeague, which is basketball's equivalent of a Champions League in soccer with the top teams from various nations qualifying to take part, is planning to have all 18 teams from this season in the league again next season. Plans call for longer-than-usual training camps later this year "to allow players to recover their physical and mental shape in time for the new season," the league said.

Officials plan to start the 2020-21 season on Oct. 1.

"All the league's stakeholders maintained their determination and exhausted every possible avenue in trying to deliver a complete and uniquely special season to our fans, whose passion is the driving force for all our efforts," Bertomeu said.

England's women's league halted

Associated Press

LONDON — The top women's soccer league in England was canceled Monday, with no decision reached on which teams have won the title and been relegated.

The decision was taken to end the Women's Super League following "overwhelming feedback from the clubs," the Football Association said, and to give them the chance to "prepare and focus on next season."

Manchester City was leading the league by a point, but if the league is decided on average points per game, Chelsea would win the title.

Clubs have "discussed various recommendations which will be sent to the FA Board to determine the most appropriate sporting outcome for the 2019/20 season," the FA said. That includes which two teams should represent England in the Women's Champions League next season.



BRANDON WADE/AP

Bartolo Colon is doused after his 246th career win, the most by a pitcher born in Latin America, after the Texas Rangers' victory over Seattle in 2018. With each day that passes without baseball activity, the chances that Colon, who turned 47 on Sunday could pitch again in the Major Leagues diminishes.

Now 47, Colon still hoping to pitch again in majors

By ERIC NUNEZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bartolo Colon refuses to entertain the idea of retirement.

It doesn't matter that he didn't pitch in 2019 and that on Sunday he turned 47.

He craves one more shot in the majors.

"I'm not retired. That's not in my mind," Colon told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "I'm still hoping of reaching my goal of pitching 46 innings. I'll sign with the first team who wants me."

Why 46?

That's the number of innings that will propel him to pass Hall of Famer Juan Marichal for the most by a Dominican pitcher.

In his last big league season, with the Texas Rangers in 2018, Colon managed to reach 3,461 2/3 innings. He is 247-188 in 565 games — 552 as a starter since his debut with Cleveland in 1997.

Marichal managed to pitch 3,507 innings in 471 games over 16 years.

Colon is aware that time is against him.

"I know this is not a sport for the old, it's for the young," Colon said. "I keep training. Even though I'm not playing right now, I tried to keep fit."

The coronavirus pandemic altered Colon's plans this year.

In back in March, he was gearing up to pitch with the Monclova Acereros of the Mexican Baseball

League. But their preseason was stopped when the outbreak forced the league to shut down, and a restart status is uncertain.

"I had to decide to stay in Mexico or get back to the Dominican Republic. I went to my country and they also have quarantines and curfews," he said. "I'm still waiting. The Monclova people say they will tell me what will be happening with the season, depending on the virus."

Colon is keeping busy these days promoting his recently released autobiography, "Big Sexy: In His Own Words."

Yes, the title is the nickname that Noah Syndergaard, his rotation colleague during his time with the New York Mets from 2014-16, bestowed upon him.

Along with all of his wins, Colon provided fans with a lot of fun at the plate over his 21 seasons in the majors.

It's been since four years since his unforgettable first and only home run, against James Shields of the San Diego Padres. There's a good deal in the book devoted to his difficulties battling when he went to play in the National League with the Mets, his helmet comically flying when missing contact.

Colon said he learned to take in stride his strikeouts.

"I didn't mind people laughing. Actually, I end it asking for a bigger helmet so it could fall," he said.

Japanese baseball to start on June 19

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's professional baseball season will open on June 19 under a plan that excludes fans.

League commissioner Atsushi Saito made the announcement on Monday after an online meeting with representatives of the league's 12 teams.

"I hope we can provide some guidance for sports other than professional baseball," Saito said. "It is important to operate cautiously according to our guidelines."

The announcement came as the state of emergency was lifted in Tokyo and on the northern island of Hokkaido by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The state

of emergency was lifted earlier this month for other parts of the country.

Teams can begin practice games on June 2.

The season was to have begun on March 20 but the start was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Japan has reported about 850 deaths from COVID-19.

"It is with great joy that we have been able to decide on opening the season. But we believe it is from now that we must make thorough preparations without fail, and it remains crucial our efforts move forward cautiously while protecting our players, other people involved and their families," Saito added.

Japan joins South Korea and Taiwan whose leagues are open and playing largely without fans.

NHL/WNBA

Some concerned about quarantining away from family

By STEPHEN WHYNO
and JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

Young and single, Thatcher Demko has plenty of time on his hands, with little to do. Quarantining to play hockey wouldn't be a problem for the Vancouver Canucks goalie.

"I don't have too many roots," the 24-year-old said. "I've been living pretty much out of my car for the most part for the last six, seven years just going from place to place."

Older players disagree.

Minnesota goalie Devan Dubnyk doesn't think players with children would be interested in spending lengthy stretches away from their loved ones amid the pandemic. "I don't know what else Boston's Tuukka Rask, who bluntly said: 'It doesn't feel right to take guys away from their families for many, many months at a time.'

It's a reality players might have to face for the NHL, to resume play, something Toronto's Kyle Clifford calls a "hot topic" among players. While the NHL and its players' union are discussing a 24-team playoff format to resume the season, figuring out how to incorporate family time in a potential quarantine environment is one of many hurdles to clear.

"For sure, that's a big thing," said Philadelphia forward James van Riemsdyk, one of the players on the Return to Play committee and a new father. "No one wants to be away from their family for months on end, and everyone is aware of that with who's on this committee."

NHL scoreboard

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Boston | 70 | 44 | 14 | 12 | 100 | 227 | 174 |
| Tampa Bay | 70 | 42 | 16 | 12 | 96 | 225 | 177 |
| Toronto | 70 | 36 | 25 | 9 | 78 | 231 | 227 |
| Florida | 69 | 35 | 26 | 8 | 78 | 231 | 228 |
| Montreal | 71 | 34 | 29 | 8 | 76 | 226 | 231 |
| Buffalo | 69 | 30 | 31 | 8 | 68 | 195 | 247 |
| Ottawa | 71 | 25 | 34 | 12 | 62 | 191 | 243 |
| Detroit | 71 | 24 | 35 | 12 | 59 | 145 | 267 |

Metropolitan Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Washington | 69 | 41 | 20 | 8 | 90 | 240 | 215 |
| Philadelphia | 70 | 37 | 24 | 12 | 76 | 225 | 215 |
| Pittsburgh | 69 | 40 | 23 | 6 | 86 | 224 | 196 |
| Carolina | 69 | 38 | 25 | 5 | 81 | 222 | 193 |
| Colorado | 70 | 38 | 26 | 6 | 76 | 216 | 203 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 68 | 35 | 23 | 10 | 80 | 192 | 193 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 70 | 37 | 28 | 5 | 79 | 234 | 222 |
| New Jersey | 70 | 37 | 29 | 12 | 74 | 189 | 230 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| St. Louis | 69 | 42 | 19 | 10 | 94 | 225 | 193 |
| Colorado | 70 | 42 | 20 | 8 | 92 | 237 | 191 |
| Edmonton | 69 | 37 | 26 | 6 | 83 | 225 | 217 |
| Winnipeg | 71 | 37 | 28 | 6 | 80 | 216 | 203 |
| Nashville | 69 | 35 | 26 | 8 | 78 | 215 | 225 |
| Minnesota | 69 | 35 | 26 | 7 | 77 | 215 | 225 |
| Chicago | 70 | 32 | 30 | 8 | 72 | 212 | 218 |

Pacific Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Vegas | 71 | 37 | 24 | 9 | 86 | 227 | 211 |
| Edmonton | 70 | 42 | 20 | 8 | 92 | 235 | 211 |
| Calgary | 70 | 36 | 27 | 7 | 79 | 210 | 191 |
| Vancouver | 69 | 35 | 26 | 7 | 76 | 215 | 207 |
| Arizona | 70 | 33 | 29 | 8 | 74 | 195 | 187 |
| Anaheim | 71 | 29 | 33 | 9 | 67 | 187 | 226 |
| Los Angeles | 70 | 29 | 35 | 5 | 64 | 178 | 211 |
| San Jose | 70 | 29 | 36 | 5 | 63 | 182 | 216 |

From Dubnyk and Rask in the NHL to Major League Baseball players Mike Trout and Ryan Zimmerman, pro athletes have voiced concerns about spending significant time away from family. When baseball was considering a containment bubble in Arizona to play, Zimmerman — whose wife is due to give birth to the couple's third child in June — said he wouldn't accept not seeing them for four or five months.

"I can tell you right now that's not going to happen," Zimmerman



Vancouver Canucks goalie Thatcher Demko is only 24 and single, so quarantining away from family isn't that a big deal to him, compared to players with wives and children.

DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

said. "Not many people have to go through that, nor should they."

The NHL, like the NBA, does not face the challenge of trying to complete an entire season. But even an abbreviated return calls for coordinating 600-plus players at different stages of their personal lives.

"I think it'd be easier for guys without families or single guys to kind of go on quarantine and enjoy that process as much as you can," Nashville defenseman Ryan Ellis said. "But it would be tough being a father myself. It would be tough to live through FaceTime in that situation. But you have to weigh the pros and cons on each side and what's important for you and your family."

The league was exploring various locations that could host games, including Edmonton, Columbus and Las Vegas. They could be big enough for players to bring family members with them, the format might allow

for a break in the schedule for teams that advance deep into the playoffs.

"You've got to kind of create this bubble, but if families are coming in and out, then I don't know," said Carolina's Jordan Martinook, who has a year-old son he doesn't want to be away from for more than a month at a time. "That kind of compromises the bubble. I don't know if they would say your family's got to be with you from day one the whole time or they can't come if you're in the bubble."

NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said league officials are "sensitive to the issue and are focused on finding a solution that works for the players."

New Jersey's Connor Carrick, whose Devils might be off until the start of next season, said he trusts NHLPA executive director Don Fehr and his staff to make a decision in the best interest of all and many players as possible. Those

waiting on the possibility of playing, like Washington's Beck Malenstyn, hope there's a resolution that weighs isolation from family members against the risk of them getting infected.

"I think there's probably a happy medium between the two," Malenstyn said. "You definitely don't just want to close the door on your family in a time like this. But it's also you have to look at if we were going to take that step to go back and play, it's the safety of your family to probably not have them around, either, just with the exposure to everything."

Added Demko, the Vancouver goalie: "I think everyone's going to have to make a sacrifice: players, owners, union. I don't think that there is a scenario where everyone's going to be happy with the situation."

AP Sports Writers Dave Campbell and Teresa M. Werner contributed.

WNBA set to make tough choices on roster cuts



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

New York Liberty general manager Jonathan Kolb said trimming his roster is more difficult this year because players haven't gone through training camp yet.

BY DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Liberty general manager Jonathan Kolb knew that he and first-year coach Walt Hopkins would have to make some tough decisions on the team's roster this year.

He just didn't think they'd have to do it so quickly and without seeing players compete in training camp. The WNBA and the players' union decided that teams would have to get their rosters under the salary cap by Tuesday so that players could start getting paid on June 1.

It's left many teams with tough decisions on who they will cut and little time to figure it out.

"It is the worst part of this job," Kolb said. "These are dreams that are suddenly altered and you're a large part of that."

Connecticut Sun coach and general manager Curt Miller had set up his training camp roster so a few position battles would determine the final spots on the team. Now he'll have to make choices in a different way.

"Ultimately we have to decide, because we can't do it all together, what skill set will strength of theirs makes most sense to round out our roster?" Miller said.

Teams usually have to cut their rosters to get under the salary cap before the regular season begins, which would have been on May 14. The WNBA postponed the start of the season in early April because of the coronavirus pandemic and is still focusing on a handful of scenarios that would allow it to play this year.

Teams typically would be able to evaluate players by their on-court actions. Now it's more based on how quickly they pick things up on Zoom calls or how they understand plays online.

"The league office didn't foresee a pandemic," Kolb said in a phone interview. "They are doing the best they can do. It doesn't take away from how difficult this was for us."

The Liberty have six rookies on the roster, including No. 1 draft pick Sabrina Ionescu. They also have five international players, which has made life a little more difficult because of the logistics involved in traveling.

"It's definitely impacting us the most," he said. "We have the most international players and with so much uncertainty and lack of answers at the moment, it puts us in a position to have to make decisions."

AUTO RACING

Victory: Keselowski wins Coca-Cola 600 for first time

FROM BACK PAGE

its third Cup race in seven days — all without spectators — and limited media access.

Wearing a white Team Penske mask, Keselowski went to the empty infield media center for a post-race Zoom news conference. Unable to hear the questions, he shouted into the computer:

“Can you talk really loud?” he yelled. “My ears are ringing.”

The Sunday before Memorial Day is supposed to be a smorgasbord of motorsports that begins with Formula One at the Monaco Grand Prix, then IndyCar and the Indianapolis 500, followed by NASCAR and its longest race on the calendar.

The coronavirus pandemic has wiped out the first part of F1's schedule and, like IndyCar, it is still waiting to start its season. Penske, the new owner of Indianapolis Motor Speedway, has moved the Indy 500. It marks the first time since 1946 the 500 is not being run on Memorial Day weekend.

NASCAR was able to resume its season under a health plan approved by state officials that allowed the sport to resume after a 10-week hiatus. NASCAR ran three events in South Carolina, and the Coca-Cola 600 kicks off four consecutive days of racing at Charlotte.

A rain delay of nearly 90 minutes during the first stage of the race pushed the finish into Monday, but it still ended up just fine for Penske, the owner of Keselowski's car who should have spent Sunday celebrating his first Indy 500 as the racetrack's owner.

“This is one of the biggest days for him,” Keselowski said. “Winning never hurts. This is my 30th win and I think I have another 30 in me.”

Johnson finished second, one spot ahead of devastated Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott, as Chevrolet is still seeking its first win in the three Cup races since NASCAR resumed. But almost two hours after the race, NASCAR disqualified Johnson because his Chevrolet failed post-race inspection.

“We think something must've broken, but we don't know until we get it back to the shop,” said Johnson crew chief Cliff Gibbs. “Tough news after a strong night.”

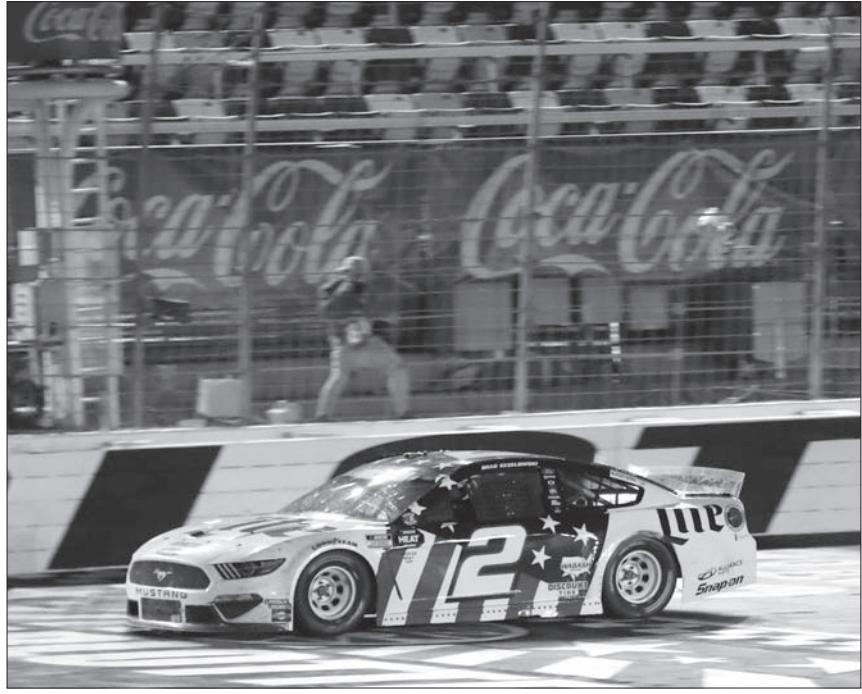
Elliott had a comfortable lead and was coasting to the win when Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron spun with a tire problem.

“That's got to be a joke,” Elliott said over his radio.

Elliott was wrecked by Kyle Busch trying to race for the win at Darlington Raceway on Wednesday night. It led to Elliott flipping Busch the bird at Darlington.

This time, he was briefly consoled by Busch as he climbed from his car on pit road. But he was openly disappointed for the second time in four days.

“I was a lap-and-a-half away from winning the 600,” Elliott said. “This week has been pretty unfortunate, we have had some tough losses.”



PHOTOS BY GERRY BROOME/AP

Brad Keselowski wins the NASCAR Cup Series race in front of empty stands at Charlotte Motor Speedway early Monday, in Concord, N.C.

Hamlin's race ruined by tungsten flying off car

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin had his shot at winning another crown jewel event Sunday night destroyed before the Coca-Cola 600 even began.

A piece of tungsten flew off of Hamlin's car during the pace laps at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Hamlin had to return to pit road to have the weight put back into his Toyota.

Hamlin was eight laps down when he was finally able to join the race. The penalty for tungsten coming off a car is a four-race suspension for the crew chief, according to NASCAR's rule book.

Hamlin, winner Wednesday night at Darlington Raceway, was clearly growing frustrated as his Joe Gibbs Racing team worked to repair tungsten.

“Let me know when it's the point of no return and we can just go home,” Hamlin said.

“Nope,” replied crew chief Chris Gabehart. “We can't do that.”

The tungsten in question weighs 35 pounds and costs \$1,877 from the supplier. If it comes off a car



Denny Hamlin's race got of to a bad start on Sunday when a piece of tungsten flew off of his car during the pace laps of the Coca-Cola 600.

during competition, it can cause serious damage if another vehicle hits it. The ballast is added to meet NASCAR's minimum-weight requirement and if it becomes separated from the car it is an automatic four-race suspension for the crew chief.

Scoreboard

Coca-Cola 600

NASCAR Cup Series

Sunday

At Charlotte Motor Speedway

Concord, N.C.

Lap length: 1.56 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (9) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 405 laps, 44 points

2. (19) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 405, 43.

3. (26) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 405, 44.

4. (4) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 405, 42.

5. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 405, 33.

6. (8) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 405, 56.

7. (10) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 405, 46.

8. (5) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 405, 37.

9. (15) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 405,

28. (34) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 405,

18. (27) Michael McDowell, Ford, 405,

19. (12) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 404,

47. (20) William Byron, Chevrolet, 404,

21. (21) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 403,

22. (29) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 403,

23. (24) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 403, 14.

24. (17) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet,

403, 13.

25. (7) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 401, 42.

44. (4) Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet, 401,

11. (18) Ryan Newman, Ford, 400, 11.

28. (37) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 399, 2.

29. (2) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 398, 6.

30. (35) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 398, 7.

31. (31) Gray Gaulding, Toyota, 397, 6.

32. (26) Matt Tifft, Toyota, 393, 6.

33. (38) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet,

391, 0.

34. (32) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 390, 0.

35. (30) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 390, 2.

36. (39) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 385, 0.

37. (34) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, garage,

251, 0.

38. (23) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, vi-

bration, 164, 1.

39. (20) Clint Bowyer, Ford, accident,

96, 0.

40. (2) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, dis-

qualified, 405, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed for Winner: 135.042 mph.

Second Place: 4 hours, 29 minutes, 55 seconds

Margin of Victory: .293 seconds.

Caution: 105 of 391 laps.

Lead Changer: 20 (Johnson 11 drivers).

Lead Leaders: Ku:Busch 0-54; A.Bowman 55-159; J.Johnson 160-162; J.Nemechek 163-164; A.Richardson 164-165; A.Bowman 166-223; M.Truex 224-255; B.Keselowski 256-262; C.Truex 263; J.Logano 264-270; A.Bowman 271-293; M.DiBenedetto 304-308; J.Logano 307;

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TENNIS/GOLF



DAVID VINCENT/AP

Serena Williams casts a shadow on the clay as she drops her racket while celebrating winning the final of the 2015 French Open tennis tournament. With the tournament postponed until September, there's nothing but shadows this week at Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Tennis, anyone? It's quiet this week at Roland Garros

BY JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

PARIS — Tennis, anyone? Not Sunday at the French Open. Nobody was there. Maybe they will be in September.

It should have been the first day of the clay-court Grand Slam tournament held annually at Roland Garros — with thousands flocking to catch a glimpse of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Serena Williams.

Instead, the grounds in leafy western Paris were deserted on a sunny, blue-sky day because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Every year it's Roland Garros time, it's a bit like tennis fever. I was looking forward to seeing quality tennis and having a day out again. There's a certain mood, an atmosphere," said 34-year-old Hector Snowman, who attended the tournament in 2019. "You see stars walking around there, it feels like a privilege to be there. Everyone's expecting a French player to do well and they have their favorites like (Roger) Federer."

Court Philippe Chatrier, where 15,000 fans cheered Nadal's record-extending 12th title last June, wouldn't have needed the new roof that was supposed to debut in case of rain this year.

Viewed from outside, peering through one of the site's imposing iron gates, the towering roof looked grandiose with its 11 large sections, each 360 feet long and weighing 330 tons.

Also visible: construction equipment left behind when France went into lockdown on March 17, littering the inside of Roland Garros.

In early February, the French Tennis Federation proudly released a video to announce the roof was ready. A few weeks later, people were sheltering in place as the nation went into confinement. Soccer, rugby and tennis events



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

A pigeon sits on a glass barrier during the 2016 French Open.

all got called off.

If the French Open does start as hoped on Sept. 20, it might have to be played with no spectators present on the 17 courts for health and safety reasons. The maze-like grounds of Roland Garros are narrow, crammed, stuffy and sinewy, making social distancing impossible.

That would mean 10,000 fans missing out on watching Djokovic or Nadal on Court Suzanne Lenglen in the early rounds, and it would dash the FFT's hopes of beating the record 520,000 fans who came to watch last year.

Normally thousands of people would be pressed together on the surrounding streets, preparing to go through security as they walked toward the entrances down Avenue de la Porte d'Auteuil or Avenue Gordon Bennett. As folks waited in line to get checked, the chatter might have been something along these lines:

■ Can Nadal win a 13th championship in Paris to raise his total of major trophies to 20 and equal

Federer's record for men? ■ Will Williams win a 24th Grand Slam title to equal Margaret Court?

■ Will Djokovic claim an 18th major title to close in on Nadal and Federer?

■ Can Ash Barty repeat her 2019 French Open triumph, which earned her her first major championship?

■ Could Dominic Thiem, a runner-up to Nadal the past two years, finally win his first major?

But on this day, the long lanes leading to the stadium looked like any other tree-lined street in Paris. There were no stewards barking out instructions or beefy security guards checking bags. No panama-hat wearing volunteers guiding fans around or checking tickets.

Normally it would take 15 to 20 frustrating minutes to walk from the Porte d'Auteuil subway station to the main entrance. On Sunday, it took just six minutes.

Only handfuls of people walked down the avenue or rode bikes, some wearing protective masks.

Woods, Manning trash talk way to a charity win

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

relentlessly, Brady's shot landed beyond the pin and spun back into the cup.

"Shut your mouth, Chuck," said Brady, whose microphone piece dangled off the back of his pants.

Woods still thought he won the hole with a 25-foot eagle putt that instead spun hard off the back of the lip. All that, and they ended up halving the hole.

Donations for COVID-19 relief funds kept piling up, and the entertainment didn't stop even as it rained returned. It caused a 45-minute delay at the start, and as Woods said on the practice range, "I don't normally play in conditions like this."

Mickelson brought out his "Tiger Slayer" putter that he used to shoot 64 at Pebble Beach in 2012, the last time they were in the final group on the PGA Tour. Woods shot 75 that day. It didn't help Lefty with a few critical birdie putts to square the match, though he rolled in a 15-foot par putt to stay 1 down with two to play.

The back nine was modified alternate shot — all players hit tee shots, and it was alternate shot from there. It was key for the quarterbacks to find the fairway for the pros to hit shots into the green, and Brady came through until the 18th.

Woods was playing for the first time since Feb. 16 when he finished last at Riviera in Los Angeles. He chose not to play the next four weeks with his back not feeling just right, and then the pandemic shut down golf and sports worldwide.

Woods looked sharp for the most part, with his game and his words. Mickelson on the fifth hole asked Woods to mark his ball from some 80 yards away.

"You want me to mark with a U.S. Open medal," said Woods, a three-time champion of the only major Mickelson hasn't won.

"Phil said he was nervous. I know Tom and I were comparing notes," Manning said. "To be behind the ropes in these guys' worlds, to be in the arena with them, it was really a special experience. I was not comfortable the entire time. Knowing \$20 million was raised and helping people going through tough times, it was an honor he was invited."

"It's something I'll always remember."

Shut your mouth, Chuck.

Tom Brady
to commentator
Charles Barkley,
after Brady holed
out a pitch shot.

SPORTS



Family first?

Not all players sold on prospect of leaving loved ones » Page 21

AUTO RACING



VALUABLE VICTORY

Keselowski holds off seven-time champ Johnson in OT for first win of year

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

Brad Keselowski, in a contract year and trying to up his value in free agency, gave Roger Penske a victory on what should have been the most celebrated day in motorsports but was instead just a 6-plus hour NASCAR show.

Keselowski extended Jimmie Johnson's losing streak to 102 races by holding off the

CONCORD, N.C. Brad Keselowski, in a contract year and trying to up his value in free agency, gave Roger Penske a victory on what should have been the most celebrated day in motorsports but was instead just a 6-plus hour NASCAR show.

Keselowski extended Jimmie Johnson's

Inside:

■ Daytona 500 winner Hamlin suffers serious setback at start of Coca-Cola 600, Page 22

seven-time NASCAR champion in overtime early Monday to win the Coca-Cola 600, the longest race on the NASCAR schedule.

It was the first win for Keselowski this season, his first Coca-Cola 600 victory and the first win at this event for Ford since 2002. Keselowski celebrated as he usually does by waving a giant American flag out his window during his victory burnouts on the frontstretch of Charlotte Motor Speedway.

When he first got out of the car for his net-

work interview, the silence at the track was a downer.

"I was kind of bummed. I wanted to win the 600 my whole life and wanted to win in front of everybody, but that's not always how it works," Keselowski said. "I know there are fans that wish they could be in the stands."

In these unusual times of the coronavirus pandemic, NASCAR is still adapting in its return to racing a full week ago. This event was

SEE VICTORY ON PAGE 22

Brad Keselowski celebrates after winning Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, in Concord, N.C.

GERRY BROOME/AP

Woods, Manning win charity match vs. rivals » Page 23



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